
Douluo Dalu

V25 - Single Category Clans

Tang Jia San Shao

169 – The Four Great Single Attribute Clans

Hearing Tang San say this, Tai Tan's eyes immediately brightened,

“Good plan, really good plan. In terms of Spirit Masters, no matter how hard we try, we still can't catch up to Spirit Hall. If we can use equipment to close the gap between ordinary people and Spirit Masters, then, Spirit Masters won't have such an unconditional advantage. Especially low level Spirit Masters, when confronting troops with large scale deployment of such killing weapons, they'll definitely be miserable. Young master, was this thing invented by you or master?”

Regarding Tai Tan's question, Tang San had long ago already thought of an answer.

“I accidentally obtained a secret book. Weapons like these are collectively called hidden weapons. Their greatest characteristic is suddenness. As an example, the Godly Zhuge Crossbow is only rated as mid level among them. But the more powerful the hidden weapon, the more complicated the manufacturing. I'm establishing the Tang Sect with the plan to develop hidden weapons with hidden weapons as capital and using Heaven Dou Empire as trade partner. I think they'll definitely be exceptionally interested in our equipment.”

Tai Tan smiled. His big hands blurred in front of him, and those scattered components magically reassembled, at such speed that it was at least ten times that of Tang San's own assembling speed. In just the time of a few breaths, the Godly Zhuge Crossbow was already in its previous condition, the degree of skill making Tang San gasp in amazement.

“It seems young master's sect not only won't have me spend money, but on the contrary profit enormously. No wonder you would say ironworkers wouldn't continue being so lowly. This is a turning point for the entire industry!”

If Tai Tan's decision to support Tang San earlier could more importantly be described to be due to the relationship with Tang Hao and Tang San's potential, then right now his support was completely sincere, his gaze at Tang San even brimming with admiration. Carrying forward the blacksmith industry was the life long cherished wish of great strength god Tai Tan; he was even more excited than Tang San. If not for his son and grandson being here, he wouldn't even be able to keep from dancing and clapping his hands.

Tang San pondered, then said:

"We have to conduct all this in secrecy. For the moment our path can't cross the Heaven Dou Empire. As for the manufacture of hidden weapons, I'll move over as soon as possible. Afterwards we'll begin the operations of the Tang Sect. I've already reached an agreement with school master Ning of the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School, he will support the Tang Sect with a large amount of financial resources. In return we are required to manufacture hidden weapons, therefore, there's no need to worry about funding. But some rare metals we will have to gather on our own. Our Tang Sect hidden weapons absolutely aren't only aimed at those low level Spirit Masters. We want to let Title Douluo level opponents tremble in fear, this is my true goal."

Tai Tan grinned, saying:

"There's no need for young master to worry about this. I still have the position as vice president of the continental blacksmith association. Buying uncommon metals won't be a problem. We just need some time. In a few days, once the Tang Sect has settled, I'll personally go to Gengxin City^[1]. That's the location of the blacksmith association's headquarters, and has the greatest metals exchange. From there, we should be able to get a lot of good things. We might even hire a group of ironworkers. How about this? Young master, once I've dealt with an important matter, we'll carry out allround modifications here. Since we're doing it, we'll go all out."

Hearing Tai Tan's words, Tang San first of all felt at ease. Establishing a sect absolutely wasn't a simple matter, but with the backing of Tai Tan's Strength Clan, as well as Tai Tan's forging skill,

everything down the line would be a lot easier.

“Elder, at that time I’ll make the trip to Gengxin City with you. I also want to see the grace of this city of metals.”

Tai Tan nodded, saying:

“Young master, today you came just in time. If you came tomorrow instead, I’m afraid you wouldn’t have seen this old man.”

“Eh? Elder is going out on a journey?”

Tang San puzzled asked.

Tai Tan sighed lightly, saying:

“Now that you mention it, this is still related to the Clear Sky School. Originally, before the Clear Sky School was sealed, when it was the number one sect under Heaven, there were large amounts of subordinate Spirit Master factions under it, most of all our four great single attribute clans. Apart from my Strength Clan, there was also the Defense Clan^[2], the Speed Clan^[3], as well as the Breaking Clan^[4]. Along with the later accidents of the Clear Sky School, the sect declared itself sealed, and we also withdrew from the Clear Sky School in succession. But our four great single category clans always looked out for each other, consequently, every two years, we’ll all gather for a meeting. This year is the time of the meeting. Spirit Hall has recently been active, and will again choose seven great sects in one year, hence our gathering this time is absolutely necessary. I’ll be setting out to participate in this gathering tomorrow. I’ll be gone for at least a month. Young master please don’t blame me. The Tang Sect is in its early stage of development. I’ll leave behind Tai Nuo to work with you. If you have any thoughts, just let him carry it out.”

Tang San’s heart twitched,

“Elder, if I wanted to go along with you, I don’t know whether it would be inconvenient. I understand that the four great single category clans had no choice but to separate from the Clear Sky School back then. These years because of the conflict between the Clear Sky School and Spirit Hall back then, perhaps it might be

unwanted. But I want to try to get into contact with them. Perhaps.....”

Tai Nuo waved his hand, smiling wryly:

“Young master, you coming with me isn’t any problem. Only, the other three clan chiefs have even deeper resentment for the Clear Sky School, and moreover, they’re all extremely stubborn contemporaries. These years haven’t been as simple as unwanted; it’s us practically not daring to reveal our faces due to being pushed aside. Even if the Clear Sky School broke the seal, they still wouldn’t serve the sect again. If you hope to gain their support, I’m afraid it might be wasting your breath.”

To the side, Tai Nuo interjected:

“Their resentment towards the Clear Sky School is deep, especially the Breaking Clan. Because of their relationship with the Clear Sky School, they were once attacked by Spirit Hall, with almost half their clansmen injured. Even now their strength hasn’t recovered. But at that time the Clear Sky School was already sealed, preoccupied with self-defense, cold to everyone.”

Tang San sighed. He knew that sealing the sect really was the Clear Sky School’s mistake. However, at that time the Clear Sky School faced an enormous crisis. His father and Spirit Hall were in conflict, and his grandfather the old sect master had passed away. His uncle hadn’t inherited the sect master position for long, and the inside circumstances of the sect were extremely unstable. In order to protect themselves, the sect was finally sealed. But that was to the bitterness of these adhering little clans. When Spirit Hall couldn’t find the Clear Sky Sect, they naturally vented their anger on them. He could imagine the difficulties they had gone through over the years, not only days of dodging to the east and hiding in the west, the circumstances like the Strength Clan’s might still be those best off.

“It’s the Clear Sky School that let them down. Elder Tai Tan, let me go with you. I should dissolve or at least try to dissolve it. Even if they won’t return to the Clear Sky School in the future, I still hope to do something for them, to as far as possible make up for the injuries they’ve suffered over these years. What do you think?”

Tai Tan looked at Tang San, somewhat astounded. His expression couldn't help softening,

"Compared to master in those days, young master doesn't lack in drive, but you're even more comprehensive than master was. With these words from young master, this old man will definitely do his utmost. Only, it's better if young master doesn't hold too much hope."

How could it be proved impossible without trying? Tang San stood, saying:

"Then we'll do like this first. I'll leave first, the matter of establishing the Tang Sect is postponed. I'll come meet up with you tomorrow morning, then we'll participate in the four single attribute clan meeting together."

Tai Tan's trio delivered Tang San straight to the door, then followed his departure with their eyes.

Tai Nuo looked at his father, then again at his son. He couldn't help saying:

"Young master's conduct is steady, he really isn't like a just twenty years old youth."

Tai Tan smiled slightly, saying:

"I really hope to see the Clear Sky School emerge thanks to young master. Young master establishing the Tang Sect is also a good thing, we won't return to the Clear Sky School either, hereafter the Strength Clan is only part of the Tang Sect. Tai Long."

"Grandpa."

Tai Long replied deferentially.

Tai Tan said:

"Tomorrow you'll also go participate in the gathering with young master. You have to follow next to young master, learn from young master. As long as you can learn from young master to some degree, later I can also be at ease in leaving the Strength Clan to

you. You're considered possessing rare talent in the clan, you can have some accomplishments in the future. See how much you can learn from young master. Tai Nuo, after we've left, the clan will be in your hands. While we're away, you remodel the interior of the clan buildings, we'll go back and talk over the initial remodelling procedures."

"Yes, father."

Returning to Shrek Academy, Tang San came straight to the residence, by now there was already the four of them living in the log cabin. Tang San naturally wouldn't hide anything from Oscar and the others, and simply explained his plans and the Strength Clan's support.

"Little Ao, you and Rongrong have finally reunited with great difficulty, you stay at the Academy. Fatty, you going with me tomorrow?"

Ma Hongjun grinned, saying:

"Alright, staying idle is staying idle anyway. Besides, later I'm also a Tang Sect vice sect master."

Ning Rongrong smiled:

"Third brother, you can't favor one and discriminate against another. You let Fatty be the vice sect master, I want to as well."

Tang San somewhat helplessly said:

"Do as you wish, as long as uncle Ning doesn't object, I approve."

Oscar said:

"Little San, let's all go with you tomorrow. Since you know the resentment between the four single attribute clans and Clear Sky School is very deep, just in case they're unfavourable to you, it would be better for all of use to go together."

Tang San shook his head, saying:

"You stay. Even if the four single attribute clans had even deeper

resentment, the Clear Sky School can still be said to be their birthplace, they won't do anything to me. Moreover, this side still needs some preparatory work. Rongrong, I'll trouble you to let uncle Ning know that I'll hurry back, in one month at the earliest, two months at the latest.

Ning Rongrong nodded agreement,

"Third brother, take care as you go. Will you still bring Xiao Wu along?"

Tang San looked at Xiao Wu in his arms, nodded and said:

"I won't leave Xiao Wu again. Don't worry, I have the Wishful Hundred Treasure Purse, if I meet danger I'll protect Xiao Wu first."

Oscar pondered, saying:

"The effect of my mirror sausage is limited for you, but if used, it'll screen your own abilities. I'll make you some. Little San, if you still have something to deal with on this side, just leave it to us. We're brothers, you don't need to be polite. Spirit Hall is our common enemy."

After five years of learning from experience, Oscar was a lot more stable than before.

Tang San pondered, saying:

"There's nothing at the moment, you continue cultivating at the Academy. If you have time, you can go take a look at the auction house, bring back some rare metals. Find uncle Ning for the money. Uncle Ning will back us all out financially."

After Tang San said goodbye to Grandmaster, Flender and the others, the next morning, he and Ma Hongjun came once again to the Strength Clan.

Tai Tan was ready since earlier, and after talking over the Strength Clan's interior remodelling plans with Tang San, he left them for Tai Nuo to implement. The party then got under way.

Tai Tan didn't bring a lot of people. Besides Tai Long, there were still

four disciples from the same second generation as Tai Nuo. They were all over forty, Spirit Kings with spirit power over the fiftieth rank.

Tang San still held Xiao Wu to his chest. When there was no danger, he was reluctant to leave Xiao Wu alone in the Wishful Hundred Treasure Purse. Even though Xiao Wu's body had no awareness, it was still extremely cute, and also hated parting with Tang San. perhaps it was because the Yearning Heartbroken Red still hadn't been completely assimilated, but what it liked the most was laying in Tang San's arms, sleeping.

Eight people setting off couldn't walk the whole way, so Tai Tan had specially transferred two carriages from the sect. He and Tai Long, Tang San and Ma Hongjun were in one, the four clansmen in the other.

Even though everyone's statures were very imposing, the Strength Clan's carriages were hardly small, pulled by four horses, four people sitting inside was still extremely spacious. As for food and drink, everyone carried spirit tools, so there was no need to take up space in the carriages.

Whether Ma Hongjun or Tang San, it wasn't the first time using carriages, but sitting in this carriage was extremely smooth, padded with soft thick cushions. This was a clear and refreshing autumn day, the air outside cool and refreshing. Pulling open the curtains, a cool breeze swept by, exceptionally enjoyable.

Sitting in the carriage, Ma Hongjun couldn't help sighing:

"Elder, these carriages of yours really are comfortable, how come I don't feel any bumps?"

Tai Tan said somewhat proudly:

"This was made by us, the carriage's base is made with refined iron, and below are sixteen thick springs that can filter out the bumps, most suitable for long journeys. Were it not for the cart itself being so heavy, it wouldn't need to be pulled by four horses. The carters are also clan disciples."

Tang San smiled:

“Before I really had eyes but failed to recognize Mt Tai, I didn’t think you really were a grandmaster blacksmith. I haven’t had time to ask you, where are we meeting the other three clans this time?”

Tai Tan said:

“This time the road won’t be short, we have to pass through half the Heaven Dou Empire, and enter the borders of Star Luo Empire, we’ll meet with them in Rising Dragon City not far from the border. The gathering will be hosted by the Defense Clan this time, they’re rooted in Rising Dragon City, apart from our Strength Clan, they’ve gotten along the best. Young master still doesn’t have an understanding of the four great clans. This journey will be leisurely, I’ll tell you about our four single attribute clans.

This was also what Tang San most wanted to know right now. Immediately focusing, he listened to Tai Tan.

Tai Tan said:

“The four single attribute clans really weren’t established at the same time. Considered subsidiary sects of the Clear Sky School, the first clan chiefs were all related outside relatives of the Clear Sky School. Like our Strength Clan, was considered established the earliest of the four clans, my great grandmother was considered a directly related disciple of the Clear Sky School, and my great grandfather’s strength was considerable, close to Title Douluo. He was himself interested in forging, and under the support of the Clear Sky School, established the Strength Clan, subordinate to the Clear Sky School. Afterwards it gradually became one of the important economic sources of the Clear Sky School. Any one clansman of the four single attribute clans isn’t very powerful, young master should also have seen that the only merit of our Strength Clan is great strength, when meeting Spirit Masters with controlling spirit abilities, we basically don’t have any means. This is also why Spirit Hall hardly cared about us. Frankly, the Strength Clan’s great strength and blocking characteristics are more or less the same as the Defense Clan, only we’re more partial to forceful attacks, while they’re more partial to tough skin and thick meat. In terms of defense, the

Defense Clan absolutely isn't inferior to the Elephant Armored School of the seven great sects, their spirit is the Plate Armored Giant Rhinoceros, just that their attack power can't compare to the Elephant Armored School."

"The other three were all established within a hundred years, their history isn't as long as our Strength Clan, but each clan all has their own strength, thereby making up the deficiencies of the Clear Sky School. Like our Strength Clan is expert in forging, the Defense Clan is expert in construction. Originally, when the Clear Sky School grounds was being built, it was all done by the Defense Clan. And what the Speed Clan is good at is scouting, because they cultivate speed with all their heart and soul, they're astonishingly quick, they can be said to be the best scouts. And the Breaking Clan relies mainly on attacking, they're actually expert in making medicine."

"At present, our Strength Clan has set roots in Heaven Dou City, considered the best adapted. Even though the losses of the Breaking Clan were disastrous back then, any country would welcome their medicine refining, therefore their circumstances are roughly the same as the Defense Clan. Only the Speed Clan is currently the most miserable, they don't want to join other Spirit Master clans, on their own they also don't have any good trade skills. If not for our other three clans frequently supporting them, I'm afraid the Speed Clan would have waned even faster."

Hearing Tai Tan say this, Tang San had an initial understanding of the four single attribute clans, secretly thinking that it was no wonder the Clear Sky School was number one under heaven back then, when these four subsidiary single attribute clans were already so outstanding. Unfortunately the sect was sealed too impetuously back then, without asking these talents to stay. Otherwise, it would be a lot easier for the Clear Sky School to rise again.

"Elder, you just said the Breaking Clan was experts in medicine, what medicines can they refine?"

Tang San asked.

Tai Tan said:

“I’m not to clear on the details either. It seems they’ll refine medicinal drugs, but will equally refine poisons. Among the four clans, the Breaking Clan could be said to be the most mysterious. Back when they originally attached themselves to the Clear Sky School, they were the ones most distantly related to the sect, and moreover kept their clan’s drugs confidential. The old sect master once got dissatisfied with them. But they were nevertheless most severely implicated with the sect. Could be said to be truly unfortunate.”

The corners of his mouth revealing a faint smile, Tang San secretly already had some plans.

“Elder, how many clansmen does the four clans have right now?”

Tai Tan said:

“Our Strength Clan has more than two hundred directly related disciples, the total number of family members exceeding five hundred. Of the other three clans, the Defense Clan and the Agility Clan is more or less the same as us. The Breaking Clan’s directly related disciples should be just a hundred. Their vitality is far from recovered.”

Tang San said somewhat pondering:

“That means the four single attribute clans added together has close to a thousand people.”

Tai Tan said:

“Back when the Clear Sky School was like the sun at zenith, the directly related clansmen were still only three hundred, but the subsidiary Spirit Masters still numbered more than five thousand. They were also split into a number of small clans, and our four single category clans were the leaders among these clans. The Clear Sky Clan going into seclusion lead to the monkeys scattering when the tree falls. Only a tiny handful really stayed behind. Our four clans directly suffered Spirit Hall’s formidable pressure and couldn’t get the backing of any sect, compelling us to collapse and fall apart, those small clans scattered even faster, there were a lot of them who chose to accept being incorporated into Spirit Hall. You might say

that even though the Clear Sky School and Spirit Hall didn't have a true battle, the sect being sealed was already a major defeat. If not for being forced, who would want to give up on their homeland and separate from their sect?"

At the end, Tai Tan's voice clearly grew heavy. One could imagine, when a former big player of the Spirit Master World fell from the heavens without even a fight, what kind of heavy blow it was to these subsidiary clans.

It was quiet in the carriage, but the atmosphere was somewhat heavy.

After a long time, Tai Tan spoke up once again,

"Actually, I know the sect's choice really was the smartest. The old sect master was dead. The new sect master had just taken the position. The master had also killed the Supreme Pontiff. There was already rigid hatred between our Clear Sky School and Spirit Hall. Spirit Hall even had enough reason to forcefully invade. Even if the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School and the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan wanted to help us, there would still be more than a seventy percent chance of the Clear Sky School being exterminated. And choosing to live in seclusion could undoubtedly preserve the Clear Sky School's true strength. Even if the subsidiary clans scattered, the sect wouldn't lose its own force. If the sect stood again in the future, still with the force to resist Spirit Hall, would there be any lack of Spirit Masters joining?"

This old man's voice was filled with bleakness. He was secretly telling Tang San that common Spirit Masters and clans were only chess pieces for those great powers. When they had to be abandoned, they would be kicked and trampled. This was also an important reason they had such resentment towards the Clear Sky School.

Drawing a deep breath, Tang San didn't know how he should comfort the old man, empty promises held no meaning.

"Young master. I have a request."

Tai Tan's gaze suddenly grew fiery.

"Elder, speak."

Tang San hurriedly said.

Tai Tan lowered his voice:

"If the Clear Sky School truly returns again, and you want to join with the Clear Sky School, please let me lead the Strength Clan to withdraw from Tang Sect."

Tang San said resolutely without the slightest hesitation:

"That won't happen. Tang Sect is Tang Sect, Clear Sky School is Clear Sky School. Even if I'm a Clear Sky School descendant, I've always wanted to establish the Tang Sect as a Spirit Master Sect. Impossible to merge with the Clear Sky School."

Hearing him say this, Tai Tan's expression clearly relaxed somewhat,

"When young master says so, I'm relieved."

Tang Sect was Tang Sect, those were all of Tang San's memories of his last life, raising and developing the Tang Sect in another world was the only thought he had when he just came to this world, how could he easily leave the Tang Sect to others? Let alone merging with the Clear Sky School, leaving authority to the Clear Sky School.

In order to keep Tai Tan from sinking into painful memories again, Tang San said:

"Elder, you're a leading scholar of the world of forging, the road is long, it would be better for us to discuss some hidden weapons."

Hearing the words 'hidden weapons', Tai Tan's spirit was immediately roused, gasping in praise:

"Those blueprints young master found could be said to be art surpassing nature, even though I can roughly understand them, if you had me design them, there would definitely be no designs."

Tang San smiled slightly saying:

“Actually, there are still a lot of hidden weapons more tremendous than the Godly Zhuge Crossbow. Among them there’s one kind of hidden weapon that’s quite small, equally only one chi, but it’s cylindrical, if it could be made, by conservative estimates, it could at least split open the defense of Spirit Sage level Spirit Masters, including Spirit Avatar. Even if it was Title Douluo, if caught off guard, might still be seriously injured.”

Tai Tan’s eyes brightened, crying out:

“There’s still such tremendous hidden weapons?”

Tang San nodded with certainty:

“Just that manufacturing them is seriously difficulty. Not only are the material demands extremely high, but the manufacturing skill needs to be even more perfect, with just a hair fine error, it couldn’t be made.”

Tai Tan was the celebrity of a generation in the forging world. Hearing Tang San say this, he immediately had an itch that was difficult to scratch,

“Young master, what’s this hidden weapon called, do you have the designs? I don’t dare speak of other things, but on the Continent, in terms of skill, if I can’t make it, perhaps no one can.”

Tang San said:

“Back then I recorded all the plans in that secret book in my mind, I can easily give you an introduction. When this hidden weapon is fired, it’ll be like a peacock spreading its tail, gloriously brilliant, but while the eye is dazzled, it will take your life. Therefore it’s called Peacock Plume.”

Tai Tan sighed:

“Good, good Peacock Plume, if it’s like you say, and we can make large quantities of Peacock Plume, how Spirit Hall will shiver.”

Tang San smiled wryly:

“It’s not that easy. Even though the Peacock Plume’s power is out of

the ordinary, not only are the demands for skill extremely difficult, but furthermore, the material demands are also extremely high. Otherwise, how could it break Spirit Sage level defenses? Making the Peacock Plume requires profound iron. Only mechanical and spray hidden weapons made from profound iron can reach that kind of power.”

Tai Tan looked distracted a moment,

“Profound iron? What metal is that? How come I haven’t heard of it?”

Tang San’s heart twitched, thinking to himself that what was called profound iron in his previous world might not be called the same in this world,

“Profound iron is a kind of extremely rare metal, several times heavier than the same volume of ordinary iron, as long as a smidgen is included in hidden weapons they can become sharper. If weapons were made from pure profound iron, it could practically restrain any other metallic weapon.”

Tai Tan’s eyes revealed a trace of pondering light,

“Don’t tell me what you call profound iron is black lined iron? Black lined iron seems to have roughly the same effects as the profound iron you speak of. It’s really also extremely rare. Its price a lot higher than gold, it’s always forged the king of metals.”

Hearing Tai Tan say this, Tang San immediately exulted. What he most feared was that this world didn’t have profound iron. That it was rare was very ordinary, but as long as it existed, there was the chance of creating the Peacock Plume.

Tang San smiled slightly, saying:

“It seems that after this four great single attribute clan gathering, I really have to go with you to metal capital Gengxin City. I hope we can reap some harvest.”

Tai Tan’s interest was already completely drawn out by Tang San,

“Young master, tell me quickly, what are the designs for this

Peacock Plume?”

Tang San said:

“Peacock Plume, it’s one of the most formidable kinds of hidden weapons recorded in the secret book. It’s shape is cylindrical, one chi long, the cross section diameter three *cun*. Two buttons on top. The first button is used to wind the mechanism. The same principle as the Godly Zhuge Crossbow, they both fear the mechanism being wound for too long, leading to wear. Only winding the Peacock Plume’s mechanism is a lot more intricate than the Godly Zhuge Crossbow, it only needs one push to instantly complete the process. And the second button is used to shoot, difficult for supernatural beings to escape. The entire Peacock Plume has altogether three large sections. The plume, the internal mechanism, as well as the fitted hidden weapon. Among them, the most difficult to produce is the internal mechanism. It’s extremely complex. The Peacock Plume holds altogether three hundred sixty five hidden weapons, shot at once. If ejected, it can cover an area of several dozen square meters. The three hundred sixty five hidden weapons are divided into twelve types, due to volume, they’re all needle shaped hidden weapons. They’re each made from profound iron, still with some special qualities. The reason it uses profound iron, besides the hidden weapon’s own killing power, is because weight is also extremely important. Without a certain weight, after the hidden weapon erupts, its might will naturally be limited. After ejection, its might will be greatest within a thirty meter range, past thirty meters, its power will gradually drop, reaching fifty meters at most. The twelve hidden weapons included are each Bone Piercing Needles, Thunderflame needles, Armor Breaking Needles, Blade Splitting needles, Devil Subduing Needles, Overlord Needles, Deep Yin Needles, Dragon Breaking Needles, Lust Drowning Needles, Dragon Beard Needles, Meteor Extermination Needles and Seven Murder Needles.”

“These twelve types of needles practically include all the most representative and most powerful of needle type hidden weapons. Each kind is made in a different way, their style and materials used also all different. For example, the Bone Piercing Needle’s effect is

mainly puncturing, the front thin and back round, made entirely from profound iron, there are eight grooves on the tiny needle. The distance between each must be exactly the same. Possesses extremely powerful puncturing capabilities. The Thunderflame Needle contains an explosive substance, its outer shell is also made from profound iron, but the explosive substance within must be highly concentrated, the explosion can shatter the profound iron at impact, vastly increasing killing power. The Armor Breaking Needle's effect is somewhat similar to the Bone Piercing Needle, but the Bone Piercing Needle is directed at protective spirit power, and the Armor Piercing Needle aims at physical defenses. Like the Elephant Armored School's tough skin would be completely ineffectual against the Armor Breaking Needle. Others like the Deep Yin Needle are highly poisonous, the Dragon Breaking Needle momentarily paralyses the enemy, instantly increasing blood circulation speed tenfold. If they're not given treatment, their heart will burst. The Dragon Beard needle is made from the hair gold of the best crystals, after entering the body it will instantly curl up, making the opponent prefer to die. As for the most powerful Meteor Extermination Needle and Seven Murder Needles, they can instantly take a life. If these twelve kinds of needles are instantly fired, unless the opponent's defense is already at a level where the Peacock Plume's twelve needles is unable to break through, as long as one hits, they will definitely die."

Tang San's account really was very plain, but it still made the listening Tai Tan's scalp tingle. When Tang San began to talk about how the Peacock Plume could destroy Spirit Sages he still didn't believe it, but after hearing Tang San describe these twelve kinds of needles, he suddenly felt that he previously might have been viewing the sky from the bottom of a well. If this hidden weapon really could be made, then, let alone Spirit Sages, even Spirit Douluo like him might be unable to block it.

"No wonder young master says making this hidden weapon is extremely difficult, this old man has truly had his eyes opened. Just making these twelve kinds of needles is already difficult beyond difficult, let alone making the Peacock Plume capable of holding them all. Making this thing would require extremely detailed plans. At the same time, all types of rare metals are equally indispensable.

Even in the Strength Clan, perhaps only me and another two brothers have the skill to make it. Funny, just now I wanted to mass produce them. In order to produce immense power, one must pay an equally immense price!”

Tang San smiled slightly. In fact, if he was given enough time, this Peacock Plume could also be made. The Peacock Plume was originally ranked third of the Tang Sect’s three great lost mechanical hidden weapons kings, ranked second was the Torrential Pear Blossom needle, and ranked number one was the Buddha Fury Tang Lotus.

He could even research the production of the Buddha Fury Tang Lotus by himself, if he was given time, making the other two wouldn’t be impossible.

Notes

1. Gengxin City - (庚辛城) geng and xin refers to the seventh and eighth of the ten heavenly stems, and by extension are used to denote the seventh and eighth items in lists, thus a translation might be GH City, or VII-VIII City, or 7-8 City.
2. Defense Clan - (御之一族) or “Only Resistance Clan”
3. Speed Clan - (敏之一族) or “Only Agility Clan”
4. Breaking Clan - (破之一族) or “Only Splitting Clan”, the character refers to all sorts of things related to breaking things.

170 – The Three Vulgar Cheap Customers

But the Buddha Fury Tang Lotus and the other two great hidden weapons were somewhat different. The greatest difficulty of making the Buddha Fury Tang Lotus was the gunpowder recipe. It had to be concentrated in order to produce a sufficient effect. That instantly erupting power needed such capability. And among these three hidden weapons, the Peacock Plume had the highest demands regarding production, the kind with the most difficult requirements of skill. And the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle had the most pitiless material requirements. The three great hidden weapons could be called victors in their own arena. The ranking was established according to the power they produced. As for dodging these three great hidden weapons, that was of course impossible.

Tang San's face revealed a faint smile,

"When that moment comes I'll trouble you elder. If the Peacock Plume can be successfully produced, even a small number will be equally capable of being a formidable deterrent. Unfortunately....."

Tai Tan asked:

"Young master, what's unfortunate?"

Tang San sighed, saying:

"Unfortunately, there are still two kinds of hidden weapons that might not be made. If those two hidden weapons could be created, even Title Douluo would be killed or injured."

"What? There are still such hidden weapons?"

Tai Tan turned pale with fright, looking at Tang San, the expression in his eyes couldn't help turning somewhat monstrous. If such hidden weapons really did exist, then what would Spirit Masters still cultivate? Before such hidden weapons, wouldn't that be certain

death without reprieve?

Tang San said:

“There are, but creating them is too difficult. They’re the most powerful single target attack Torrential Pear Blossom Needle, as well as the most powerful group damage Buddha Fury Tang Lotus. These are temporarily not within our considerations.”

Tai Tan puzzled asked:

“Why? Don’t tell me making these two hidden weapons is even more difficult than the Peacock Plume you just mentioned?”

Tang San smiled wryly:

“It’s not more troublesome than the Peacock plume. These three kinds are the top three mechanical type hidden weapons. The Peacock Plume is number three among them. The Torrential Pear Blossom Needle is second. The most powerful is the Buddha Fury Tang Lotus. But in terms of local attack power, the Buddha Fury Tang Lotus isn’t above the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle. I’ll just explain it simply, and you’ll understand why I say making these two kinds of hidden weapons is difficult. Like the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle, not only the main part, but the twenty seven Pear Blossom Needles it fires must all be made from the silver source of deep sea sunken silver. Deep sea sunken silver is a metal ten times more valuable than profound iron. As for its silver source, it practically doesn’t even exist, let alone speaking of buying it.”

Even in the legends of his previous world, there had only been one appearance of the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle, it was the material that prevented the manufacture of this super hidden weapon. If it was made from common materials, it couldn’t even be wound successfully. The greatest feature of the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle was that instantly erupting burst power. The firepower of the Godly Zhuge Crossbow was already very powerful, but if it was compared to the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle, it was like a firefly before the bright moon.

Tai Tan drew a cold breath once again, let alone seeing it, he hadn’t

even heard of something like deep sea sunken silver, and even less of silver source. For a moment, he couldn't help being greatly disappointed. At the same time his gaze at Tang San also grew somewhat admiring. At such a young age, not only was he accomplished as a Spirit Master, he was still so erudite.

Tang San smiled:

“Elder, my plans are like this. To us at present, what's most important is to make a hidden weapon that can contend against common Spirit Masters. Among these, most practical is to rely mainly on the Godly Zhuge Crossbow. With the support of enough metal, the Godly Zhuge Crossbow can be mass produced. Furthermore, the making the components isn't all that difficult, all skilled blacksmiths can do it. But we have to keep the assembly techniques secret, they can only be known by you and a small number of Strength Clan clansmen to complete that final procedure. In the future, the Godly Zhuge Crossbow will become our most principally produced hidden weapon. Next, we'll create some elaborate hidden weapons. Not only powerful, but also useful. As for high end hidden weapons, I'll trouble you for that. We'll research it carefully, as long as we can make a few within a short time we will. Not only can they be sold for a high price, at the same time they can be used to safeguard the sect. Among these we'll rely mainly on the formidable Peacock Plume.”

Listening to Tang San, Tai Tan nodded again and again. Tang San's vision was very practical, and he had also seen the Godly Zhuge Crossbow. Even though the artistry was notable, and the material was also the refined iron more costly than gold, to the Strength Clan, refining iron wasn't any difficult matter. As for the Peacock Plume, Tai Tan was already somewhat obsessed thanks to Tang San's introduction. If he didn't have to participate in the approaching gathering, he really would like Tang San to immediately draw out the designs so he could start trying.

To a blacksmith, what could move his heart more than producing formidable weapons?

In the Douluo Continent, this world belonging to Spirit Masters,

weapons had never been regarded as important. If he could change this through hidden weapons, then, just like Tang San said, the Strength Clan's future was unlimited.

Impatiently, Tai Tan began to question Tang San for the concrete details of making the Peacock Plume. These manufacturing methods were already branded in Tang San's mind, so he might as well give Tai Tan a detailed explanation in the carriage.

Pitifully, Ma Hongjun and Tai Long were directly driven by Tai Tan over to the other carriage, giving Tang San enough room to explain. They couldn't understand what they were hearing anyways, so they could only be in the way here.

Once they reached a rest town on the way, Tai Tan impatiently went to buy pens and paper, without caring anything for master and servant relationships, had Tang San start drawing out the designs for him right in the carriage. He then began to ponder how to make it. He didn't want to let even a bit of the details slip past.

Tang San was also extremely cooperative. Even if the carriage would shake a bit, with his strength, he naturally wouldn't be influenced a bit. From Tai Tan, he seemed to see himself from his last life. Besides respect for his senior, the relationship between the two grew more and more familiar.

When the two nerds came together, time passed with lightning speed. When Tang San and Tai Tan's research was in full swing, the destination of their journey, Rising Dragon City, was swiftly approaching.

"Grandpa."

Tai Long called out outside the carriage.

Tai Tan resentfully and angrily said:

"Didn't I say not to come bother us."

Outside the carriage, Tai Long couldn't help a wry smile. In close to half a month of travel, besides necessities, Tang San and Tai Tan hadn't even stepped out of the carriage to eat. Even late at night, the

two could still be heard loudly haranguing, even to the extent of argumentative tones. When faced with some key problem of manufacturing, neither old or young would agree to compromise. Tai Long thought to himself that, if someone didn't know better, they might think it was Tang San who was his grandfather's grandson.

"Grandpa, we've already reached the imperial border, you have to come out. The border guards will inspect the carriages. I'll have to trouble you and young master to leave the carriage a while."

Tai Tan raised his head to look eye to eye with Tang San. Even though the two of them hadn't rested much in these days, their minds were still better than anyone. In these more than ten days, whether Tai Tan or Tang San, both had been thrown into a kind of fanatical world. This was the first time Tang San had this kind of feeling since coming to this world, the once hard working researching, the once zealotry appearing once again. Even though the two were frequently at odds, often arguing, the counterpart's unique point of view would give them both a kind of feeling of a wide panorama opening up. Their only current thought was regret for not having met earlier.

Tai Tan laughed out loud, saying:

"I should step down to stretch a bit, these weary old bones can't match up to you. Let's go, little San, we'll go out into the sun."

Due to the two fiercely arguing the light of heaven and depth of the earth amidst their research, their terms of address had also subsequently changed. Tai Tan had at that time called Tang San 'little brat', and Tang San had without any trace of politeness also called him 'old orangutan'. What they debated at that time was whether to use composite materials to make the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle.

Tang San's point of view was that they couldn't, Tai Tan's was that they could. He had researched composite materials for many years, and was completely confident in them. However, the final winner of the debate had still been Tang San. After Tang San gave Tai Tan a detailed account of the forces the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle would have to bear when wound, Tai Tan had made careful calculations, discovering that his thoughts had been somewhat

simple. It was also when he saw these equations that he truly came to understand just how frighteningly powerful the Torrential Pear Blossom Needle was.

Of course, he still wasn't convinced, and Tai Tan's final words at that time was that this thing wasn't something that could be made by humans.

Opening the carriage door, warm sunshine fell on them. The Star Luo Empire was in the south of the Continent, and temperatures were a bit higher than in the northern Heaven Dou City. Stepping down from the carriage, Tang San and Tai Tan unconsciously made the same action, spreading their arms and exerting themselves to stretch.

By now, the two carriages had arrived at the frontier checkpoint. Blocking them was a small patrol unit of a hundred Heaven Dou Empire soldiers. Of course, these so called imperial soldiers didn't really belong to the Heaven Dou Empire, but were rather directly subordinate to some subordinate kingdom. Only these days Tang San had always been shut in the carriage lost in research with Tai Tan, without paying any attention to the outside. He didn't know where this was, or which kingdom those soldiers belonged to.

A few soldiers walked over, climbing over the carriage Tang San and Tai Tan sat in, starting to inspect it. They of course wouldn't find anything. Tang San had long since placed all the plans in the Twenty Four Moonlit Bridges.

Softly caressing the fur of Xiao Wu in his arms, Tang San said in a low voice:

"I'm sorry, Xiao Wu. I've wronged you over these days, not even going out in the sun. I'll definitely pay attention later."

Whether because she spent the majority of her time eating and sleeping or not, Xiao Wu's body had grown a size plumper, and the aura of life she exuded had also grown richer. At the roots of that shiny fur, there was already a faint golden color.

The Yearning Heartbroken Red was top quality among immortal

herbs. Even though it couldn't return Xiao Wu's soul, it still constantly transformed her body. In terms of breath of life, even though Xiao Wu was currently only a rabbit, she already wasn't weaker than ten thousand year old mythical beasts. This was undoubtedly a good foundation preparation for her future resurrection.

In the sunshine, Tai Tan's face gradually appeared a bit exhausted. Even though his cultivation was deep, he had after all already stepped into his old age, how could he compare to the abnormally transformed physique of Tang San in energy?

"Little San, what do you think about that plan to strengthen the Godly Zhuge Crossbow?"

Tai Tan couldn't help continue discussing some issues the two of them were researching.

Tang San nodded, saying:

"The theory is sound. But if it's remodelled, the cost of that alloy of yours won't be low, even several times higher than refined iron. But it's still hard to say concretely how strong it will be. It's not only the crossbow mechanism being changed, the crossbow bolts are equally being remodelled, otherwise, no matter how powerful the firing force, it's useless if the fired crossbow bolts can't withstand it."

Tai Tan grinned, saying:

"That's for sure, I already have some ideas, not only will the crossbow bolts be converted to alloy, moreover, I still plan to carve blood grooves on top, according to the designs of your Bone Piercing Needles. Like this, the penetrating power can be displayed to its greatest degree. I think that, let alone fortieth or fiftieth rank, when the time comes, even sixtieth ranked Spirit Masters will be threatened."

Tang San laughed in spite of himself:

"Then if moving on, aren't you next going to say that we'll replace the material for the Peacock Plume with your alloy?"

Tai Tan scratched his head,

“That doesn’t seem like it’ll work, the weight of my alloy really can’t compare to black lined iron. The impact force will be lacking. After all, the Peacock Plume needs to simultaneously hold as many as three hundred sixty five hidden weapons, weight is still extremely important.”

Tang San laughed out loud, saying:

“Transforming the Godly Zhuge Crossbow isn’t impossible, but making it will be even more difficult. I believe the original Godly Zhuge Crossbow should still be kept, after all, for large scale production, the single unit cost can’t be too high. We can also give the alloy version Godly Zhuge Crossbow a try. But, after the fiftieth rank, with each level a Spirit Master advances, his strength will be fundamentally different. I’m afraid the killing power of the Godly Zhuge Crossbow won’t be as good as you imagine after remodelling. But Spirit Masters of the fiftieth rank or so shouldn’t be any major problem.”

Tai Tan somewhat unaccepting said:

“Putting into practice is the only standard for evaluation, once we’ve tried it we’ll talk about it again.”

Tang San smiled:

“Even though the room for improving the Godly Zhuge Crossbow is limited, after hearing what you just said, I have a new thought. Besides the internal mechanism, a large part of the difficulty of making the Peacock Plume lies in those twelve kinds of unusual needles. The needles are small, making them is also extremely meticulous work. I think, we can not only convert those Godly Zhuge Crossbow bolts into the Bone Piercing Needles you mention, but equally convert into another few kinds of needles, just changing the needle to a bolt. After increasing the volume, making them will be a lot easier. Like this, we can have twelve different versions of the Godly Zhuge Crossbow. Further adding the firing strength increase from the alloy, it can catch people even more off guard.”

“Good kid, this plan is good. We’ll properly figure it out later. Like this, our Godly Zhuge Crossbow won’t be so singular. Oh, right, why

didn't I think that, through using different crossbow bolts, the power and properties will change. When manufactured, as long as the firing troughs are adjusted, if twelve different kinds of Godly Zhuge Crossbow bolts shoot, wouldn't that be a large version of the Peacock Plume? Perhaps the fire power wouldn't be as great as the Peacock Plume over short distances, but the range would be longer, its effect would definitely be even better when dealing with large groups of enemies."

Standing nearby, Tai Long as well as the dumbstruck listening Ma Hongjun now couldn't help a trace of helplessness. They again saw a burning light in Tang San and Tai Tan's eyes. Ma Hongjun couldn't help saying:

"It's over. It seems we still can't sit in the front carriage. One old and one young, why are they both so crazy when talking about hidden weapons?"

Tang San heard Ma Hongjun's words, and raised a fist at him,

"Fatty, you don't understand this. There's always been a fine line between genius and madman."

At these words, everyone couldn't help laughing. Those Strength Clan clansmen following Tai Tan to participate in the gathering this time couldn't help clicking their tongues in wonder, they hadn't seen the old clan chief so happy in a very long time. The affection with which he looked at Tang San was simply far stronger than for Tai Long. That signature grandson was already forgotten at the back of his mind.

At this moment, the soldiers inspecting the carriage had already stepped out, gaze flashing across Tang San and the others, one of the soldiers said:

"You, you, and you all. Hand over your magic tools, we'll inspect them for contraband."

This somewhat abrupt voice blocked everyone's relaxed and cheerful mood, and Tai Tan frowned:

"Since when did the frontier guard have a rule like that? I've never

heard of inspecting spirit tools.”

Only nobles and Spirit Masters could possess something like spirit tools. Used to carry important items, how could they be casually revealed?

The speaking soldier snorted once, raising his hand and waving, immediately all the soldiers at the border station encircled them with shouts. The more than one hundred soldiers immediately assumed and appearance of bows bent and swords drawn. The two carriages with Tang San and the others were completely surrounded.

That speaking soldier seemed to be the captain, coldly snorting,

“I’m the one with the final say here. You didn’t hear about the rules before? You have now. Hand over your spirit tools at once, otherwise, don’t blame me for being blunt.”

Who was Tai Tan? The Strength Clan chief, the Strength Clan never had good tempers, least of all him. Laughing coldly,

“Fine! Got guts. Dare move on me. I want to have a look at how you’ll collect our spirit tools today. Let them see who we are.”

Including Tai Long, the five the five Strength Clan clansmen simultaneously gave their reply, rich spirit power abruptly releasing from their bodies, instantly expanding as if inflated, terrifying muscles tearing the clothes on their upper bodies, in the blink of an eye revealing a frightful aura of strength.

The Strength Clan were pure strength Spirit Masters, with terrifying strength. None could be their equal among equal level Spirit Masters. Five Spirit Masters, four Spirit Kings and one Spirit Ancestor. The powerful imposing manner immediately forced those soldiers crowding around them to retreat again and again.

Instantly, the expressions of all the soldiers changed greatly, the hands holding their weapons already starting to tremble somewhat.

Tang San looked somewhat pondering at these soldiers, thoughts linking up in his mind. Generally speaking, even though border inspections were strict, it absolutely wasn’t to the degree of

inspecting spirit tools. Even though people with spirit tools could be nobles, they could also be Spirit Masters. Could it be these soldiers weren't afraid of running into Spirit Masters? Wrong. There was some reason for this.

Before Tang San could inquire further, just at this moment, a strange cold voice echoed,

"Yo, so many Spirit Masters! Four Spirit Kings, one Spirit Ancestor, no wonder they dare refuse inspection. But don't you know that refusing border inspections and forcefully charging the border is unpardonable?"

Altogether three people walked out from the barracks to the side with heads swaying. Seeing these three people, that captain from before seemed to loose a breath as if relieved of a burden, swiftly running over, saying something in a low voice to the three people.

Even though these three were also dressed as soldiers, their attire seemed somewhat crooked, and they were all over fifty. If one had to describe their appearance, it could only be said to be vulgar beyond vulgar.

The speaker was a slightly plump middle aged man, his skin appearing dark yellow, short hair, a face with a cheap appearance, seemingly a bit effeminate. With a soft voice, also making gesturing with his hands as he spoke, he seemed rather awkward.

The middle aged man in the middle had what was considered the best appearance of the three, and he was also the tallest, tangled hair hanging to his shoulders. A brandy nose, small eyes, swollen like a goldfish. One look gave the impression of an excessive love of wine.

The middle aged man on the right looked the most vulgar. Built slim, especially his wasted face, crooked mouth, swaying shoulders, holding a cucumber thin large cigar at the corner of his mouth, an appearance as if shaking a tail from side to side that made people want to whip him.

Seeing these three, everyone couldn't help their brows creasing.

Very clearly, these three fellows weren't any good creatures, and they were still at ease in front of the spirit power released by five Spirit Masters, this made clear they were also Spirit Masters.

Tang San and Ma Hongjun looked face to face. The expressions in both their eyes became a bit eccentric, especially Ma Hongjun whose facial expression grew extremely strange, the appearance of restraining laughter.

Even the red eyes of Xiao Wu in Tang San's embrace fell on that leftmost person. Even though there was no expression in her eyes, she still blinked constantly.

Very quickly, the three vulgar middle aged men had walked over, that peculiar fellow on the left saying:

"Causing trouble. So what if you're Spirit Masters? If you want to pass through here, leave behind the things in your spirit tools. Don't haggle with me, otherwise, you won't even keep your lives."

As he spoke, three spirit power fluctuations simultaneously erupted from the trio.

This leftmost fellow surged with a vague pink luster, immediately afterwards, a pink thing appeared over his head. It seemed like two covers, both round. Resting on his head, they were strange beyond strange.

Only, attracting everyone's attention was that he also had five spirit rings, one white, one yellow, three purple. Even though the spirit ring allocation wasn't up to much, he seemed very proud.

The vulgar middle aged man in the middle also grew very strange. Under the effect of his spirit, his neck suddenly grew, his mouth stretching forward, countless white feathers growing on his arms. Spreading his arms, his belly also grew very large, only those swollen eyes still kept their original appearance.

In terms of spirits, the right hand middle aged man was still the most normal, a blade appearing in his hand, but it was a broken blade.

The right hand and middle two middle aged men both had six spirit

rings, also roughly the same configuration, but with one more black ten thousand year spirit ring than the one on the left. They were unexpectedly two Spirit Emperors.

No wonder they wouldn't pay attention when confronting four Spirit Kings and a Spirit Ancestor, they had some strength.

Tai Tan snorted furiously. Even though it had really come to this, their side might not lose. But seeing the unbridled and vulgar appearance of the opponents he couldn't hold back, about to release his spirit and let those vulgar fellows see who was stronger here.

But, he was stopped by Tang San. Tang San smiled:

"Leave this to me and Fatty. We also have some history with that guy on the left. Fatty, I'll leave him to you."

Disregarding the opponents being three, and moreover two with spirit power higher than Ma Hongjun's, with Tang San backing him up, what would he still be afraid of?

Ma Hongjun already couldn't wait, at once taking a sudden step forward,

"Bu Le, do you still recognize little gramps?"

The leftmost Spirit Master immediately looked distracted when Ma Hongjun called out, his unbridled burning energy also lowering somewhat. Originally, these three fellows were the three vulgar cheap customers from back then. The peculiar person on the left was Ma Hongjun's one time love rival, whose vital area had finally been cooked by Ma Hongjun, Bu Le. That fellow in the middle was called E Kao. The rightmost person was called Tian Ya. The vulgar aura of these three gathered together was enough to alarm heaven and earth, and make ghosts cry.

However, it was also just because of their vulgarity and pettiness that no sect would shelter them. As a matter of fact, not long ago these three fellows had thought of a way to make money, relying on their Spirit Master identity to join the army, robbing at this border post.

No matter who, as long as they passed here, these people would rake off a layer of skin. The trio's spirit power level wasn't low, and could even be certain when meeting ordinary Spirit Masters. This then led to the current scene.

"Damn fatty, how do you know my name?"

Bu Le asked puzzled with his peculiar voice.

Ma Hongjun grinned,

"Did you forget the flavor of roast chicken from back then? Should I call you transvestite Bu Le?"

Hearing this, Bu Le's expression immediately changed. His gaze at Ma Hongjun became completely different, his eyes seemingly about to shoot flame,

"Bastard, you're that little fatty?"

Ma Hongjun, immensely proud with himself, said:

"That's right. Last time I burned that broken stick of firewood of yours. What do you plan to have me burn this time?"

"I'll fight you."

Bu Le's hot blood had already rushed to his head, charging at Ma Hongjun regardless of anything.

Bu Le's lewdness counted as number one among the three vulgar cheap customers, and since having his treasure destroyed by Fatty, he had never gotten back up, his spirit power cultivation had also lagged further and further behind his two peers. In terms of talent, these three vulgar fellows were originally still pretty good. Back then when he suffered Xiao Wu's sneak attack, he had already been close to the fiftieth rank.

Now hearing Ma Hongjun admit who he was, the flames of hatred combusted. He only had one thought in his heart, and that was to thoroughly cripple a certain part of this fatty, to let him also experience what he had once suffered.

However, it had been a long time since Ma Hongjun was that little fatty he had so easily bullied. Watching Bu Le throw himself at him, an intense phoenix flame immediately rushed out, the suddenly rising temperature immediately distorting the air.

Two yellow, two purple, one black, five spirit rings appeared out of nowhere. Even though both their spirit power wasn't far apart, in terms of spirit rings and the quality of their spirit itself, Ma Hongjun was far too powerful.

Unfortunately, Bu Le was already blinded by anger, unable to pay attention to anything. With a shake of his right hand, those two pink covers on his head immediately flew up, going straight to envelop Ma Hongjun. The covers grew larger in midair, seemingly still having some true imposing manner. Bu Le's five spirit rings glittered practically one after another, using his full strength.

When E Kao and Tian Ya heard Ma Hongjun's words they immediately knew who this fatty was. Back then they had searched for Ma Hongjun for a very long time, but had to give up when they didn't find him. Now seeing the colors of the spirit rings Ma Hongjun released, these two vulgar fellows didn't care about any rules, immediately charging behind Bu Le.

Unfortunately, they ran into Tang San. With a flash before their eyes, there was already a person there. Overbearing and tyrannical imposing manner spread out. Extremely ice cold killing intent barred their way forward just like sharp knives. Tang San's Deathgod Domain suddenly erupted. There was unexpectedly a faint white mist in the air. Right now, Tang San had already returned Xiao Wu to the Wishful Hundred Treasure Purse.

A chill from the bottom of their hearts made E Kao and Tian Ya's steps forward screech to a halt. Looking at the handsome youth in front of them, their eyes revealed an intense overwhelming shock.

They were both slick customers of the Spirit Master world, and they could naturally feel that the almost tangible killing intent Tang San released wasn't something that could be obtained by just cultivation. That was something accumulated through vast amounts of blood! Even though they didn't see any spirit rings appearing, this surging

ice cold killing intent already made them think of retreating.

The dense white mist gradually spread, enveloping the three people within. The ice cold feeling continued to grow, and E Kao and Tian Ya both discovered their bodies were a bit more sluggish than usual.

With a flash of black light, the Clear Sky Hammer had already appeared in Tang San's hand. He didn't use his Blue Silver Emperor spirit in order to keep his hundred thousand year spirit ring from being seen by the opponents. Killing these three vulgar fellows was nothing, but he couldn't kill all the soldiers here. Therefore, he chose to use the Clear Sky Hammer.

Despite this, Tang San's strength still didn't weaken by much. First disregarding his Tang Sect secret skills, with the power of four spirit bones as well as the Clear Sky Hammer itself, that wasn't far short of the Blue Silver Emperor.

Let alone when he still had the power of two great domains.

The lines of the Deathgod Domain carved onto the Clear Sky Hammer released white brilliance, and under Tang San urging it with his full strength, the domain's effect constantly grew stronger.

"Go!"

E Kao shouted, forcefully beating his two arms transformed into wings, countless white feathers rushing out, turning into a hurricane of white feathers, shooting at Tang San. Each feather was like a sharp blade, flickering with a faint metallic luster. This was already his fourth spirit ability.

When Tang San released the Deathgod Domain, these two fellows had already begun to beat the drums of retreat. After all, there were still another five Spirit Masters behind Tang San and Ma Hongjun, not lacking cultivation. They knew that they had kicked an iron panel here today.

However, attack was the best way to cover a retreat, they'd still first beat back Tang San, then they could escape easier. Moreover, even though they were a bit vulgar, the feelings between the three brothers were still deep, they'd leave with Bu Le.

At the same time as E Kao launched his attack, Tian Ya scurried along fiercely, at high speed moving past next to the hurricane. In the same instant as he accelerated, his broken blade was already swinging, a faint green afterimage smeared directly towards Tang San's neck.

The vulgar three cheap customers were pretty good as a group of Spirit Masters. Bu Le was a control type Spirit Master, E Kao was power attack type, and this Tian Ya was agility attack type.

However, could they really have their wishes fulfilled?

Despite Tang San not having entered the Spirit Emperor level for long, with his current spirit power and all sorts of skills, within the range of this level, he had no opponents.

As if he basically hadn't seen E Kao's hurricane, watching Tian Ya's broken blade afterimage already in front of him, Tang San suddenly disappeared without the slightest warning.

His sudden disappearance didn't only shock Tian Ya, E Kao's hurricane also immediately lost its target.

Tian Ya suddenly felt an incomparably oppressive force behind him, as if a mountain was toppling over him. He didn't dare turn around, his feet suddenly accelerating, leaping forward. In terms of running away, this fellow could be said to be rather accomplished.

The Clear Sky Hammer struck empty air, but Tang San didn't pause, immediately swinging the second blow. This time, his hammer was swinging at E Kao. At the same time as he swung the hammer, he also arrived behind E Kao.

171 – Defense Clan

The formidable effect of the hundred thousand year spirit bone undoubtedly manifested here. Even though teleportation movement would consume a certain amount of spirit power, when used with the spirit bone, Tang San's teleportation didn't need time to charge.

Tian Ya sensed an oppressive power descend on him, and even though E Kao didn't have Tian Ya's speed, his reaction wasn't any slower, dropping and rolling in place, he was already flipping over and away. Even though his head and face were filthy with grime, at least Tang San's hammer swing at empty air.

Despite not hitting either of them, E Kao and Tian Ya's faces were both deathly pale.

Neither understood why this youth in front of them, without even a spirit ring, could fully use a frightful ability like teleportation, and still that hammer with those formidable spirit power fluctuations gave them even more of an irresistible impression.

They were basically without a way to fight. They weren't without large scale attack abilities, but under the constantly increasing effect of the Deathgod Domain, their originally frail fighting spirit had already completely collapsed.

"Bu Le, retreat. For a nobleman to take revenge, ten years isn't too long."

E Kao shouted somewhat mournfully.

However, even if Bu Le wanted to retreat now, it wasn't that easy.

The giant covers Bu Le threw out descended towards the top of Ma Hongjun's head. Back then, he originally used these covers to block Ma Hongjun's phoenix flames, afterwards trapping him, giving him a beating. But Ma Hongjun hadn't been that little fatty for a long time now. Over so many years of practical learning, under the help of the Cockscomb Phoenix Sunflower, and the true awakening of his

phoenix, how could that sticky phoenix flame be blocked by common spirits?

Firelight abruptly flashing, Ma Hongjun met Bu Le's two covers without dodging or sidestepping. Bu Le's spirit was called Heavenly Gauze Twin Covers. It was a kind of strangely shaped spirit. Perhaps it was because this fellow's disposition was too lewd, but this spirit was basically evolved from certain female essentials.

It was in itself exceptionally durable, especially under the amplification of spirit power, and its uses were diverse. Among control type Spirit Masters, it was also considered a kind of marvel.

Unfortunately, what he met today was Ma Hongjun with completely awakened phoenix flames.

Pink light flashed. Ma Hongjun was already covered by the two overlaid Heavenly Gauze Covers, and Bu Le immediately exulted. His third spirit ring brightening, the Heavenly Gauze Cover immediately constricted. He was also charging in Ma Hongjun's direction with extreme speed.

'Damn fatty, this time you're dead. The first thing I'll do is remove that toy of yours, and have you also feel the pain of not being able to be a man.'

However, before he could approach, suddenly, a violent scorching hot feeling abruptly rose in his heart. Immediately after, this scorching heat rushed up his throat, and with a vomiting sound, Bu Le spit out a mouthful of blood, his steps forward immediately slowing.

He looked on, overwhelmed with shock, as his Heavenly Gauze Twin Covers unexpectedly turned fiery red, tongue after tongue of flame starting to penetrate them, a red hot feeling constantly attacking his body and mind.

The spirit and Spirit Master were one integral whole. As the spirit suffered damage, the Spirit Master would also suffer a certain amount of the attack. Bu Le's spirit was also only this Heavenly Gauze Twin Cover, not as inexhaustible as Tang San's Blue Silver

Emperor. While turning pale with fright, his mind had also awakened from fury somewhat, and he hurriedly withdrew his Heavenly Gauze Twin Covers without the slightest hesitation.

With a cry, a pair of enormous phoenix wings dazzlingly unfolded. The enormous phoenix wings extended behind Ma Hongjun's back, and even though he himself was chubby, these phoenix wings at least were dazzlingly beautiful, the touching beauty and that scorching hot flame making the surrounding soldiers, as well as the Strength Clan's clansmen, filled with a shocking feeling.

Those four Strength Clan clansmen had originally only taken Ma Hongjun for Tang San's attendant, and Ma Hongjun this little Fatty was also comparatively easy going, never paying much attention to things like status, and didn't explain anything on his behalf. As he now spread his phoenix wings, using his third spirit ability, Phoenix Ascension, these Strength Clan members learned just how powerful he actually was. But the force from this spirit already made these equally leveled Spirit Masters feel formidable pressure, let alone Bu Le currently confronting Fatty.

The Heavenly Gauze Twin Covers Bu Le withdrew were already damaged. Watching Ma Hongjun unfold the phoenix wings, he knew he might not be able to get a good outcome today. E Kao and Yian Ya's voices echoed at this moment, however, how would retreating be that easy?

Ma Hongjun grinned,

"My turn."

The immense Phoenix Ascension wings behind him flapped, suddenly bringing his plump figure flying, shooting straight for Bu Le. Along with his increase in spirit power, the time that Phoenix Ascension could suspend him in the air was growing longer and longer. Even though it wouldn't seem fast, the phoenix flames bursting from Ma Hongjun rigidly targeted Bu Le, leaving Bu Le with no choice but to focus on confronting him.

If Bu Le wanted to retreat now, how could his speed match up to Ma Hongjun in the air? If he was caught from behind, his outcome would

be even more miserable.

Helplessly, Bu Le could only hold his still scalding Heavenly Gauze Twin Covers in front of his chest with both hands, his expression grieving and indignant. Of course, it really was difficult for people to sympathize with the grief on that vulgar face.

“Bu Le——”

E Kao threw himself in Bu Le’s direction without the slightest hesitation, and Tian Yu also equally moved. They both saw that Bu Le was unable to resist. If Ma Hongjun got in close, he would definitely die.

“Your opponent is me.”

Tang San’s third hammer blow struck down, the hammer slightly askew. After evolution, the Clear Sky Hammer was even more overbearing than before, and under the complementing effect of the Deathgod Domain, was swinging three successive swings of the Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method. even though Tang San was constantly teleporting, this still didn’t influence the overlaying force of the hammer.

Tian Ya and E kao’s eyes were already somewhat red,

“I’ll fight you.”

E Kao’s sixth spirit ring suddenly brightened, that was also a ten thousand year spirit ring, the swan wings instantly turning black, his whole body rotating, amidst surging black light, a powerful and sharp energy pulse erupted from the wings, meeting Tang San’s Clear Sky hammer.

“Swan Asura Blade.”

No matter what was said, he was still a Spirit Emperor over sixtieth rank. Even if he couldn’t defeat Tang San, his full strength attack was still fairly dreadful.

Tian Ya also took advantage of this moment to leap up, swiftly moving in front of Bu Le, the broken blade in his hand held high, his

six spirit rings simultaneously releasing dazzling light. His broken blade unexpectedly started to grow, turning four chi long in the blink of an eye. Swinging the long blade in the air, several hundred blade lights converged into a barrier in the air, blocking Ma Hongjun's charge attack. It was Tian Ya's sixth spirit ring, Broken Blade Hundred Chop.

With an explosive sound, Tang San was thrown flying under the effect of the tremendous impact, his whole body spinning three times in midair before falling to the ground.

But E Kao was equally sorry, despite Tang San's Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method only having the force of three swings, Tang San's spirit power was higher than his, and the Clear Sky Hammer weight eight hundred *jīn*. Therefore, even without the amplification of spirit abilities, the attack power of Tang San's hammerblow was considerably frightful.

As a chief of tool spirits, what kind of might did the Clear Sky Hammer have? E Kao only felt his arms about to break, his internal organs as if on fire, his calves already sunken into the ground.

Tang San was also surprised, since he hadn't expected the cowardly E Kao and Tian Ya to actually instantly erupt with such power. E Kao's Swan Asura Blade had extremely potent attack power, even though he had the Clear Sky Hammer for blocking, the ice cold blade energy had still cut his right shoulder. Fortunately he had reacted extremely quickly, and he wasn't seriously injured.

This one blade was undoubtedly Tang San's wake up call, and also made him blame himself. Clearly his strength was above the opponent's, but he was still injured, this only pointed to one problem, that he had carelessly underestimated him. E Kao absolutely wasn't powerful in the Spirit Emperor level, but he had still underestimated him, leading to him almost being seriously hurt.

At the same time as Tang San and E Kao separated on their side, Ma Hongjun's side had also reached a result. A cloud of dense flame erupted in mid air, turning into countless fiery red balls of fiery red light that blasted out, several hundred balls of flame seeming like dazzling fireworks, but each ball contained tremendous explosive

force and incomparably scorching hot phoenix flame.

Confronted with that Broken Blade Tian Ya's sixth spirit ability, Fatty also finally used his fifth, Phoenix Meteor Shower^[1].

Even Tang San didn't dare meet this spirit ability of Fatty's. When the spirit ability launched, half the sky had already turned scarlet. The spirit's own advantage became more and more clear along with spirit power rising. As one of the most formidable beast spirits, Ma Hongjun's Fire Phoenix constantly rose to higher levels. Even though this was only a fifth spirit ability, it was still Fatty's one ten thousand year spirit ability. Unexpectedly it was hardly at a disadvantage when it came into contact with Broken Blade Tian Ya's sixth spirit ability.

Tai Tan shouted to those soldiers watching the fight,

"If you don't want to die, run farther!"

The soldiers were long since scared stupid by such a vast scene, but reacted once they heard Tai Tan's lion like roar. One by one they frantically ran away while crying for their dad and shouting for their mom.

Just at the same time as they began to escape, the two great spirit abilities also smashed together.

A series of explosive bursts resounded in the air, one phoenix meteor after another striking into Tian Ya's blade light. Both sides shattered simultaneously, collided again, shattered again.

In terms of spirit power, naturally Broken Blade Tian Ya had some advantage as a Spirit Emperor, but could his spirit compare to Ma Hongjun's? Amidst a succession of violent collisions, the broken blade in Tian Ya's hand became extremely scalding, the tremendous pressure hitting him head on leaving him less and less able to breathe. His Broken Blade Hundred Chops were already gradually retreating, soon about to be unable to withstand the Phoenix Meteor Shower.

That Ma Hongjun could skip a level to fight him, besides his spirit and spirit abilities, don't forget that he still had a spirit bone. Just the overall added attribute upgrade this spirit bone gave him was

already enough to make up for the not very large difference in spirit power between him and Tian Ya. Under such circumstances, how could Tian Ya block his offensive?

Bu Le's face had already become extremely unsightly. The Heavenly Gauze Twin Covers spread out, blocking in front of him and Tian Ya. Ma Hongjun's tyrannical Phoenix Meteor Shower was already something he couldn't get involved in with his strength, what he could do was only help him and Tian Ya defend as far as possible.

Finally, along with an ear piercing shattering sound, Tian Ya blood madly spurted from Tian Ya's mouth, his Broken Blade also finally turning back into a broken blade. The spirit being injured directly injured him.

But right now, Ma Hongjun's Phoenix Meteor Shower still had at least fifty or sixty balls left.

E Kao's *qi* and blood roiled. Even though he saw what was happening, it was already too late for him to save them. Unable to hold back the great anxiety in his heart, he couldn't help spitting out a mouthful of blood.

However, what nobody expected was that Fatty's final several dozen phoenix meteors didn't land, but rather suddenly changed direction, arcing towards the sky, gradually growing fainter in the air.

The eyes of the originally standing before certain death Tian Ya and Bu Le were brimming with disbelief. On the other side, E Kao was also already stupefied.

However, equally shocked was also Tang San. He wasn't amazed that Fatty would hold back at the last moment, but rather because of the injury on his shoulder.

The original wound made him feel a stab of pain, however, as he turned his head to look at the wound, he saw a layer of faint golden light flickering over it. Immediately afterward, his right leg grew warm. As that golden light disappeared, the wound on his shoulder had unexpectedly recovered completely. If not for the torn clothes on his shoulder, there wouldn't even be a way of telling there had been

any damage.

Just in this split second, Tang San finally felt effect of the other ability of his Blue Silver Emperor right leg bone. His memories couldn't help returning to the scene when he destroyed his right leg in order to forcefully extract the Blue Silver Emperor right leg bone by suicide, the hot itch that spread throughout his body from his wounds, that seemed to be the joint effect of the Blue Silver Emperor right leg bone and his blood. Just that at the time the only thing on his mind was Xiao Wu, and so he hadn't paid attention. Now that he remembered it, he finally understood just what the Blue Silver Emperor right leg bone's second ability was.

As the heir to the blood of the Blue Silver Emperor, after obtaining the Blue Silver Emperor right leg bone, the effect of this hundred thousand year spirit bone should be even stronger than Xiao Wu's to Tang San. Only now did Tang San finally understand where its power lay.

The Phoenix Ascension behind Ma Hongjun's back was still outstretched. By now he had already landed in front of Tian Ya and Bu Le, his face revealing a smile,

"I really didn't expect you to still have some feelings of camaraderie while looking so vulgar."

The big cigar at the corner of Tian Ya's mouth was already missing. He spoke with a hoarse voice:

"Why didn't you kill us?"

Ma Hongjun pursed his lips,

"You want to die? The matter between me and Bu Le was already settled back then. He beat me, I roasted him there. There's no hatred between us. Why would I kill him? What relation does your robbery here have with us? I don't like killing people, alright? Just hurry up and fuck off, get out of the way so we can pass."

Bu Le looked somewhat lifelessly at Ma Hongjun. Clearly, he hadn't thought that Ma Hongjun would say something like this. For a moment, even though the light of hatred in his eyes didn't decrease,

it still wasn't as venomous as before. Looking at those Phoenix Ascension wings behind Fatty's back, there even seemed to be something in his eyes.

E Kao quickly walked over next to the two, pulling their clothes, Bu Le and Tian Ya simultaneously got up. Without saying anything else, Bu Le waved to the distant soldiers,

"Let them pass."

How would the soldiers dare be neglectful, that they had the courage to be impudent before was because of Bu Le and the other Spirit Masters supporting them. Seeing the ones they counted on all unable to resist, they hastily moved the barrier aside, opening the road.

Tang San walked over to Ma Hongjun. Without saying anything further, even though the four Strength Clan members were somewhat dissatisfied, the expression in Tai Tan's eyes still hinted they return to the carriages.

Ma Hongjun grinned at Bu Le, saying:

"You can find me in Heaven Dou City later. I'll keep you company anytime."

Bu Le looked face to face with Tian Ya, then suddenly said to Ma Hongjun:

"Little Fatty, I have something to say to you."

Ma Hongjun stared blankly,

"If there's something then say it."

Bu Le sighed, suddenly reaching out to hold the arm of Tian Ya next to him,

"Actually, I don't really hate you either. When you just burned my darling treasure, I was simply in such pain I wished I was dead. But later, as my injuries healed, I suddenly discovered that being a woman is quite good."

As he spoke, he deliberately leaned his head against Tian Ya's shoulder, his expression charming.

Of course, a person with such a vulgar appearance as his, exuding a charming feeling, one could imagine what kind of feeling that was.

In particular, the expression in Bu Le's eyes was still from time to time aimed at Ma Hongjun's lower body, his butt twisting a few times, his tongue licking his lips, as if hungering for something.

Bleargh—— Fatty finally couldn't bear it, directly vomiting. Even though Tang San's fortitude was a bit stronger, he also immediately moved back towards the carriage.

Ma Hongjun almost fell over himself running, yelling while running back to the carriage,

"Quick, quickly leave, I can't stand it."

Watching the two carriages speed off, Bu Le then released Tian Ya's arm, snorting,

"Damn Fatty, if I can't beat you, I'll nauseate you to death. Humph humph, you're still soft."

The corners of Tian Ya's mouth twitched,

"The problem is, you didn't just nauseate him. I'm equally sick."

"Eh....."

.....

The carriages rushed ten kilometers without Ma Hongjun calming down, from time to time leaning out the carriage window to vomit. He vowed never to see those three people again in his life.

Tang San was a bit better. After he and Tai Tan began to discuss hidden weapons again, the churning feeling in his stomach gradually settled.

Rising Dragon City was situated in the north of Star Luo Empire, less than two hundred li from the common border of the two great empires, it was truly a frontier city.

Rising Dragon City in itself wasn't directly under the administration of the Star Luo imperial family, but rather the territory within the borders of a subordinate kingdom. Because of trade, this not at all large city was still flourishing, visitors coming and going endlessly.

Kingdoms and duchies, on the surface these powers belonged to the two great empires, but in truth they hadn't been under imperial control for a long time, and moreover still controlled a lot of economically strategic towns, and behind them was the secret backing of Spirit Hall, competing with the empires as equals. Even though conflicts weren't common, along with imperial authority gradually being undermined, especially after the recent destruction of the two great sects, the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School and the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan, the kingdoms and duchies had also acted increasingly aggressive. Some had even started to openly expand their territory. Even though the scope wasn't large, it could already reveal a great many problems.

But extraordinarily, the two great empires completely disregarded their restless stirring. Everything seemed very calm, even to the extent that there were no signs of military movement. Perhaps it was because those kingdoms and duchies lacked confidence, but the silence of the two great empires instead frightened them, and for the moment they didn't dare be too unbridled.

The Strength Clan's two carriages entered Rising Dragon City after passing a simple inspection at the gate. Of course, the taxes for foreign merchants entering the city were indispensable. The people were counted accordingly, but most astonishing was that even the horses counted as people. Each person was one gold spirit coin, the carriages three spirit coins, and further adding eight healthy horses, they had to pay tens of spirit coins.

Even though everyone were Spirit Masters, they didn't belong to Spirit Hall, and in order to avoid trouble, they might as well pay and smoothly enter the town.

"Elder, what are our arrangements?"

Tang San asked Tai Tan. These days he and Tai Tan had always

been talking hidden weapons, to the extent that they hadn't even thought to talk about the four clan gathering.

Tai Tan carefully gathered up the blueprints in the carriage and placed them in his spirit tool,

"We'll head directly to the Defense Clan's place. Since they're the hosts, naturally they'll stand for the arrangements. Actually, each gathering is only everyone meeting again after a long time, chatting about what's happened recently, looking out for each other. There are no fixed procedures."

Tang San nodded at that. Softly caressing Xiao Wu's soft fur, his face revealed a somewhat pondering expression. Having arrived in Rising Dragon City, he should start to consider how to confront the four single attribute clans.

Tai Tan didn't disturb him either, he sat in the carriage resting with his eyes closed. After their exchange on this whole journey, if he only appreciated Tang San before, then now there was already a bit of admiration.

Tai Tan thought of himself as already being a peak level character in the forging world, but when talking with Tang San he would frequently sigh in admiration because of his intricate way of thinking and those elaborate hidden weapon designs. From his point of view, Tang San not only remembered the hidden weapons plans, but moreover had an extremely deep understanding of them. When the two disagreed, after careful analysis, it would frequently be Tai Tan compromising, and not this youngster.

In this period of exchange, Tai Tan grew increasingly convinced that his choice was correct. He understood that the Clear Sky Clan had perhaps produced another alarmingly talented genius. To the extent that he was even more talented than the one who had been called the Continent's youngest Title Douluo, Tang Hao.

Even if Tai Tan was rough on the outside, his mind was meticulous enough, otherwise he couldn't have had such a deep understanding of his forging art. He could of course guess Tang San's objective in coming along on this trip. Originally he wasn't a bit optimistic, but

through his exchange with Tan San, he discovered the unique charm of this youth. Just as expected of a control type Spirit Master, he could frequently very easily control the overall situation. He basically wasn't like a barely twenty youth.

The more one was polished on the grindstone, the sharper one got, perhaps this was related to his experiences. After enduring immeasurable pain and expending immeasurable effort, he had his present talent. That wasn't something that could be obtained by just relying on talent.

Rising Dragon City was far smaller than Heaven Dou City, and the two carriages pulled by eight horses very soon reached their destination.

The carriages stopped outside of a large house. When Tang San stepped down from the carriage and looked towards the great gate of this courtyard, his face couldn't help revealing a smiling expression. This unexpectedly seemed quite similar to the Strength Clan's mansion, just that the inscribed board above the gate had the word 'Defense'.

Tai Tan smiled:

"Our four clans' buildings were designed by the Defense Clan. That's why they're very similar. Even though the construction seems quite crude overall, inside are actually concealed a lot of mechanisms suitable for defending. The Defense Clan's position in the construction field isn't a bit lower than our Strength Clan in forging. It's said that this Rising Dragon City lord's mansion was also remodelled by them. It's also because of that project that they could lay their foundation here."

When the two carriages stopped, two robust men were already running out from the great gate. Compared to the Strength Clan clansmen, they seemed a bit shorter, but gave people an even more massive impression.

One robust man hastily saluted deferentially,

"Hello, respected clan chief Tai Tan, the Strength Clan is welcome to

our clan.”

Tai Tan waved his hand, laughing out loud,

“No need to be polite. Isn’t the old rhino at the clan?”

The two Defense Clan big guys responsible for greeting smiled wryly at each other, secretly thinking, *‘perhaps nobody other than you dares nickname our clan chief ‘old rhino’.’*

Even though they silently cursed in their hearts, they didn’t dare show it on their faces, one of them saying:

“The clan chief is here, just waiting for all the seniors to arrive. We sent someone to report as soon as we saw the Strength Clan’s carriages.”

Before he had finished, a deep voice echoed from within the Defense Clan’s mansion,

“You old orangutan. I could hear that loud windpipe of yours without even leaving the house. You actually dare call me names, haha.”

Hearing this voice, Tai Tan immediately laughed heartily without restraint,

“Dissatisfied, huh, if you’ve got the skill we’ll compare strength. After you beat me, I won’t call you old rhino. How about it?”

Between the wide open gates, an old man half a head shorter than Tai Tan walked out. This person’s face was like a heavy date, steel needle like short hair already grizzled, his face ruddy, a pair of bell sized eyes bright and full of expression, extremely broad shoulders. Even though the robes he wore were very spacious, his build filled with incomparable power and grandeur was still visible in his movements. If Tai Tan was like a towering mountain, then he was like a wide and solid fortress.

When the two old men saw each other, they spread their arms practically simultaneously, their solid chests firmly knocking together, issuing a loud thump. That noise was so loud it made Tang San jump, showing just how much effort they put into it.

Tai Long standing next to Tang San said in a low voice:

“It’s custom. Among the four single attribute clans, us and the Defense Clan have the best relationship. Grandpa and grandpa Niu are best friends, they grew up together. They’re like this every time they meet.”

Sure enough, after their violent collision, the two men tightly embraced each other, laughing loudly simultaneously. Judging by the veins on the terrifying muscles of Tai Tan’s arms, they didn’t seem to just be hugging.

“You old orangutan, you’ve grown a bit stronger again! Only, even if I’m not stronger than you, don’t even think about snapping these old bones.”

Tai Tan snapped:

“Who doesn’t know how thick your skin is? Tai Long, come here. Greet your grandpa Niu Gao^[2].”

Tai Long hurriedly strode forward, deferentially saluting the Defense Clan chief,

“Hello, grandpa Niu.”

Niu Gao grabbed Tai Long’s arm,

“What greetings, we’re all one family, why so many customs? En, Tai Long, you’re quite robust, you have the bearing of your grandpa back then. Last time it was your dad and grandpa who came. I think that your future accomplishments will surpass your father’s. Tai Tan that kid is still a bit petite.”

Hearing this, Tang San couldn’t help inwardly wiping his sweat. Someone built like Tai Nuo was still considered petite? Then there was no justice!

Tai Tan didn’t introduce Tang San to Niu Gao, this was by Tang San’s own request. His identity as a child of the Clear Sky Clan could very easily cause trouble, he had to first observe the circumstances, then choose how to confront the other three single category clans.

Tai Tan said:

“Let’s go. We still haven’t gone inside. Don’t tell me we have to drink the wind here!”

Niu Gao grinned,

“Think I’ve forgotten in the excitement of seeing you? Let’s go, come inside. I’ve prepared you the liquor you like best, tonight us brothers won’t return without getting drunk, if you don’t dare, you’re a soft egg.”

“Dog farts, when wasn’t it you who got so drunk you crawled back. Come, I’m afraid you won’t succeed. Eh, right, old rhino, those two fellows aren’t here?”

Niu Gao said:

“Not yet, you’re the first. You’re so energetic every time. There’s still another two days till the gathering.”

Tai Tan laughed out loud, saying:

“Doesn’t matter, we’ll drink heartily first. Best is if all the wine is finished when they arrive, let them drink water.”

Tang San always observed coolly as he followed the two clan chiefs with Tai Long and Ma Hongjun. The four Strength Clan disciples as well as the two disciples acting as coachmen followed behind them.

Through observation, Tang San discovered that this Defense Clan chief Niu Gao really had a very good relationship with Tai Tan. If he was approached through this relationship, it should be a bit easier. He just didn’t know how to move this old man.

Just as Tai Tan said, the Defense Clan’s architecture was almost exactly the same as the Strength Clan, giving a familiar feeling on entering.

The old brothers Tai Tan and Niu Gao walked arm in arm, their cheerful laughter almost never stopping. Only when they reached a wide hall did they separate as host and guest. Of course, both Tai Tan and Niu Gao sat in the seat of honor.

Tai Long didn't sit in the place of the first guest, but rather left this seat for Tang San, he and Ma Hongjun sitting below. This action immediately drew Niu Gao's attention. People capable of becoming clan chief didn't just possess great strength. Niu Gao's character was somewhat similar to Tai Tan. Seeing Tai Long's actions, he couldn't help asking Tai Tan:

"Old orangutan, you didn't introduce us, who is this young man who's as pretty as a lady? Eh, and that fatty. This doesn't seem like the style of your Strength Clan!"

Hearing Niu Gao's interrogation, Tai Tan couldn't help looking at Tang San, inwardly pondering deeply a moment, then saying:

"These two are my grandson's friends from school. I brought them to have a look this time."

"En?"

Hearing this, Niu Gao's gaze instead grew even more questioning. In fact, the gathering of the four single attribute clans was an extremely secret affair, how could outsiders be allowed to casually participate? Judging by the expression with which Tai Long looked at Tang San, he clearly saw a respectful mood. How would that happen with youngsters of the same age?

Niu Gao wasn't a person to mince words, snapping:

"Old orangutan, don't tell me you still have to hide things from a brother? Just who is this kid? Why would you bring him to the gathering?"

Hearing Niu Gao ask this, Tang San knew that if he didn't stand up now, even if his identity was revealed in the future, he would inevitably receive Niu Gao's contempt. Confronting such an outspoken senior Spirit Master, it would be better to get it done with at once.

Immediately, Tang San stood up, saluting slightly to Niu Gao,

"Senior Niu Gao, hello. Myself am Tang San."

Niu Gao stared blankly,

“Your surname is Tang?”

Tang San didn’t hide it,

“My father is Tang Hao.”

“What?”

Hearing this, Niu Gao couldn’t stay seated, fiercely shooting up to his feet, his original smile immediately turning gloomy. Turning his head he looked at Tai Tan to the side,

“Old orangutan, what’s the meaning of this? Don’t tell me the Clear Sky School hasn’t caused us enough harm? If not for that Tang Hao, how would we have fallen to this state?”

Tai Tan’s brows creased slightly,

“Old rhino, calm down a bit. Don’t tell me that Spirit Hall would have let the Clear Sky School off without my master’s matters back then? I hate the Clear Sky School just as much as you do for treating us subsidiary clans as disposable. But how is this related to Tang San? With your age, can’t you settle down a bit?”

Notes

1. Phoenix Meteor Shower - (凤凰流星雨)
2. Niu Gao - (牛皋) “Bovine Marsh”

172 – Poised For Battle, Comparing Defense With The Armor Plated Giant Rhinoceros

Niu Gao's expression was still very unsightly, glaring at Tai Tan:

"Old orangutan, if someone else had brought him, I would've kicked him out long ago. Have him hurry up and leave, I don't want to see anyone related to the Clear Sky School. Otherwise, don't blame me for not sparing your feelings."

Tai Tan was also somewhat angry, he regarded Tang San extremely highly, even to the extent that he had entrusted the Strength Clan's future to him. Shooting to his feet, he said angrily:

"Then fine, we'll go together. Our Strength Clan doesn't need to take part in the gathering this time. Young master, we're leaving."

Finished speaking, he headed towards the exit in big strides.

Niu Gao hadn't thought Tai Tan's reaction would actually be so fierce, and his face immediately changed. He and Tai Tan had been brothers for many years, so he naturally knew this old fellow wasn't one to make decisions lightly. However, his words were already spoken, and as a clan chief, if he were to take it back now he wouldn't be left with any face.

"Senior Tai Tan, wait a moment."

Tang San pulled Tai Tan's arm. If they truly left, perhaps there wouldn't be any leeway to change the situation. He of course wouldn't call Tai Tan 'elder' in front of outsiders.

Tai Tan looked at Tang San, and Tang San nodded at him, afterwards turned to face Niu Gao, giving him a deep bow,

"Senior Niu Gao, I apologize to you for the Clear Sky School and my

father causing the four single category clans trouble back then. I know that such an apology can't mean anything. Following senior Tai Tan this time was in the hopes of finding a way to make it up to the four clans."

Niu Gao glared at Tang San,

"Your Clear Sky School has lifted the seal?"

Tang San shook his head,

"I only represent myself and my father. Not the Clear Sky School. The sect is still sealed."

Niu Gao snorted coldly,

"No matter whether the Clear Sky School has lifted the seal or not, there's not a copper spirit coin of responsibility towards our Defense Clan. We've done very well, we have no use for any of your compensation. Nor is it something a kid still smelling of his mother's milk can repay."

Hearing Niu Gao's words, Tang San instead of getting angry, smiled. He had already heard some margins for redemption in the meaning behind the counterparts words. Of course, this margin wasn't something Niu Gao had set aside for him, but rather for Tai Tan's sake.

Right now, Tai Tan had also turned around, standing next to Tang San.

Confronted with Niu Gao's angry glare, Tang San seemed very leisurely. Embracing Xiao Wu, his graceful character not the slightest flustered. In fact, Niu Gao was also a Spirit Douluo level power, and even if he didn't purposefully release his strength to pressure Tang San, his own aura as well as the aggression saved up over decades as clan chief wasn't something an ordinary person could endure.

"Senior Niu Gao, of course I can't swear that I can do anything for the four clans. You won't believe empty promises, and even I feel that's unconvincing. However, I hope you can give me one chance. Let me stay here to participate in the gathering. I don't want the

Defense Clan to regard me as an enemy.”

Niu Gao suddenly smiled, but his smile was even more frightening than his chill just now. A tyrannical pressure suddenly burst from him, oppressing Tang San just like a raging wave.

“Give you a chance? Back when the Clear Sky School declared themselves sealed, did they give us four clans any chances? Back when your father fought Spirit Hall, did he think of our interests? Why would I give you a chance? Fuck off, get out of here, otherwise don’t blame an old man for being blunt.”

An angry light flashed in Tai Tan’s eyes, about to erupt, but was forcefully stopped by Tang San,

“Senior Tai Tan, let me deal with it on my own.”

Tang San’s goal was to establish the Tang Sect in another world, to let the Tang Sect grow and develop on this Douluo Continent. If he couldn’t even deal with this, how could he run a sect?

Confronting the immense pressure released by Niu Gao, Tang San advanced rather than retreat, taking a step forward. A faint white light appeared from his body, but the white light wasn’t extroverted, but rather gathered close around him. When the formidable pressure Niu Gao released fell on him, a bizarre scene appeared. That immense pressure was unexpectedly cut in two by Tang San’s body, slipping past on either side of him, unable to affect him in any way.

Who was Tang San? As early as when his strength was still low and confronted the three board members of the Heaven Dou Imperial Academy, he had forcefully overcome their pressure, let alone the current him. That white light was undoubtedly the Deathgod Domain inscribed on his Clear Sky Hammer, and the effect that appeared now was the evolved effect of the Deathgod Domain —— Deathgod Assault.

Just like the group binding after the Blue Silver Domain evolved, Deathgod Assault was also the result of the domain evolving along with Tang San’s strength. The evolved Blue Silver Domain’s ability Blue Silver Ranged Binding was a large scale control ability, superior

in large areas. And the Deathgod Domain's evolved ability Deathgod Assault was completely used on a single target. Right now Tang San had focused the Deathgod Domain within himself, and that Deathgod Assault turned his body into a sharp blade, immediately causing a tyrannical cutting effect on that incorporeal pressure.

In the Spirit Master world, strength could always be said to solve a great many things. When Niu Gao felt the pressure he released unexpectedly cut apart like that, he also couldn't help being shocked, his gaze at Tang San immediately changing.

Somewhat stunned looking at Tang San, Niu Gao said:

"Worthy of being Tang Hao's son, you can actually block my pressure. How old are you?"

Tang San smiled calmly,

"Almost twenty one."

Niu Gao's expression changed again, clearly amazed by Tang San's age. His gaze turned towards Tai Long to the side, and discovered that Tai Long was just now looking at him, the expression in his eyes still with something of looking at a good show. Somewhat in a rage from humiliation he said:

"Fine, if you want to stay it's possible. Right here, as long as nothing is damaged, if you can persevere against me for the time of one stick of incense, I'll let you stay to participate in the gathering. I'll explain it to the two other sides."

"Are you serious?"

The one to speak up wasn't Tang San, but rather Tai Tan. Right now, his face was already covered with a smile.

When Niu Gao saw Tai Tan's smile, he suddenly had a feeling of the hairs all over his body standing up, somewhat resentfully saying to him:

"I, old Niu, am still a clan chief, don't tell me I'd speak without thinking?"

Tai Tan grinned, saying:

“Good, very good. It seems there’s no need to leave today. We can still finish off this old fellow’s wine tonight.”

Niu Gao snorted angrily,

“Old orangutan, are you so confident in this little fellow? My spirit power has advanced in these two years, even if I still can’t compare to you, I’m still at the eighty fourth rank. How old is he? I say it’s one stick of incense.”

Tai Tan smiled mysteriously, saying:

“You try it and you’ll know. I guarantee you won’t know if you don’t try. One try will frighten you out of your skin. Old rhino, don’t blame your big brother for not warning you. There’s none in the young generation of the Clear Sky School that can stand next to Tang San, his talent isn’t inferior in any way to his father. He’s a leading figure of the present Clear Sky School third generation. A strong contender for the next Clear Sky School master.”

Hearing Tai Tan’s words, Niu Gao’s expression immediately grew serious. Other things didn’t matter, but Tai Tan saying he was more talented than Tang Hao, that made his spirit droop. He and Tai Tan were close as brothers, and Tai Tan himself wouldn’t lie to him. Moreover, within Tai Tan’s words, there was unexpectedly still a faintly warning feeling. It seemed to warn him not to keel over.

Just at this moment, Tang San spoke,

“Senior Niu Gao, you are the close brother of senior Tai Tan, naturally you’re also my senior. How about this. We’ll make our competition a bit simpler. Neither of us will use spirit abilities, but we can gather spirit force. We’ll each strike the opponent three times. The other side can’t dodge, only block. If, after three strikes, junior can still keep standing here, the senior please let junior stay here to participate in the gathering, how about it?”

Hearing Tang San say this, let alone Niu Gao being stunned, even Tai Tan widened his eyes in shock. Naturally not because Tang San gave himself an easy way to win, but rather because the conditions he

raised were too favorable to Defense Clan chief Niu Gao.

The Defense Clan, like the Strength Clan, as a single attribute clan, they wholeheartedly spent all their efforts on defense. Their defensive power was tyrannical, something no Spirit Masters on the same level could compare to. Even the famed Elephant Clan School didn't dare say they surpassed the Defense Clan in defense.

Without using spirit abilities, not allowed to dodge, enduring three of the opponent's attacks. This was clearly a method that allowed the Defense Clan's defensive power to be displayed to its greatest degree. Not to mention level ground, it already let Niu Gao hold an invincible position. And as a Spirit Douluo level power, even if Niu Gao didn't use spirit abilities, his pure spirit power bombardment was already quite powerful.

Tai Tan somewhat anxiously gave Tang San a meaningful look, but Tang San didn't seem to see it. Still attentively watching Niu Gao with a graceful expression, waiting for his reply.

Niu Gao glared at Tang San, not recovering for a long time as he couldn't think why Tang San would propose terms so favorable to him. Clearly, this youth in front of him wasn't planning on leaving, then that could only prove that he had complete confidence in himself.

"Kid, you're very brassy?"

Niu Gao said coldly.

Tang San shook his head with a smile, saying:

"I wouldn't dare. How could junior dare be arrogant in front of two seniors? I just don't want to harm the friendliness. Senior, please begin."

Finished speaking, he returned Xiao Wu from his arms to the Wishful Hundred Treasure Purse.

Niu Gao walked in front of Tang San with large strides, halting,

"The method you've proposed already leaves me at a very large advantage, how could I go first. Kid, you begin."

Tang San wasn't polite about it,

"Then fine, senior be careful."

As he spoke, he took a very simple step forward, one fist striking at Niu Gao's chest. His movements were extremely direct, but astonishing Niu Gao was that he unexpectedly didn't feel a trace of spirit power from Tang San's punch.

After a thump sound, Tang San's fist withdrew. Niu Gao stared blankly since he basically didn't feel any attack power, and couldn't help getting angry,

"Kid, are you playing with me?"

Tang San shook his head with a smile,

"I wouldn't dare. It's just that honorable senior's defensive power is number one on the Continent. What need is there for me to make a fool of myself? Junior's attack won't affect senior anyway, so it would be better if I put all my effort into defending against senior's attack. Like this there's an even greater chance I will stay behind."

Tang San's neither light nor heavy flattery immediately eased Niu Gao's expression,

"Then you take my first punch."

Niu Gao wouldn't be polite, if he couldn't beat down a barely twenty years old junior in three punches, he would absolutely lose face. But he would still give something in return for Tang San's kind intentions, therefore, this first punch only used thirty percent force.

Absolutely don't look down on thirty percent of the strength of a Spirit Douluo. Even if Niu Gao's strength wasn't as tyrannical as Tai Tan, as a defense type Spirit Master, his strength absolutely wasn't weak. Further adding his spirit power, this thirty percent strength attack was still equivalent to a common sixtieth ranked Spirit Master's full strength attack.

Tang San really didn't dodge, nor did he use his spirit, directly accepting this punch on his chest without flinching.

With a thump, Tang San fell backwards in response.

Just then Niu Gao secretly thought this youngster really was arrogant, unable to take one of his thirty percent strength punches. Only, he shouldn't be able to either. At his age, to be able to be a fortieth rank Spirit Master was pretty good. This method he had chosen really was disadvantageous to him.

However, before the thought had faded from Niu Gao's mind, his eyes widened once again.

After Tang San's upper body leaned back forty five degrees, he swung back up. Immediately afterward, his body swayed violently with his waist as axis, constantly moving up and down just like waves billowing. But he didn't fall, he didn't even retreat half a step.

This scene went on for the space of several breaths, before Tang San's body stabilized, his face not even red, his breath not hurried, looking towards Niu Gao, he smiled:

"Many thanks for senior being lenient."

"Lenient?"

Thirty percent strength really was considered being lenient, but Niu Gao still hadn't expected Tang San to be able to keep standing. The reason he didn't fully use spirit power to attack was out of fear he'd beat Tang San to death, provoking the Strength Clan and, more importantly, he didn't want to embarrass his old brother Tai Tan.

However, he absolutely hadn't expected that, after enduring his thirty percent strength punch, without using spirit power, this youth before him would actually look as if nothing had happened, as if his punch just now hadn't even hit him.

Of course Niu Gao's punch hit the target. However, Tang San ingeniously dispersed the majority of it. Tang San's swaying really wasn't completely caused by the opponent's force, but rather him using his Controlling Crane Catching Dragon skill on himself. Each time he swayed, some of the force of the opponent's attack at his chest dispersed. In the end, he didn't actually have to endure any violent attack. His skill in using four *liang* to push a thousand *jin*

really could be called brilliant. But for the people of this world it was very difficult to understand that he had displayed this consummate skill.

Tang San spread a smile towards Niu Gao,

“Senior, junior’s second punch will come. Be careful. This time junior will use strength.”

While speaking, Tang San punched again.

Niu Gao basically didn’t plan on blocking, he didn’t believe Tang San’s attack could have any effect on him. In his eyes, Tang San’s fist was even more showy this time, striking light as a feather towards his chest. Right now, all the thoughts in his mind were on how much strength to use for the next punch in order to knock down Tang San, but not cause him too much harm.

Just when Tang San’s fist was several *cun* from Niu Gao’s chest, suddenly, a rich white light burst from his body. That wasn’t the release of a spirit, even less a spirit ability, but rather the blessed domain inscribed on his Clear Sky Hammer.

The white light instantly rushed from all over Tang San’s body to gather on his right hand, the Deathgod Domain’s evolved ability Deathgod Assault condensing on his fist in an instant. Just relying on these few *cun* of distance, Tang San’s fist abruptly accelerated, bombarding Niu Gao’s chest with speed difficult to discern with the naked eye. Strangely, as this punch struck Niu Gao’s chest, it didn’t make any sound.

The excessive modesty was only to make the opponent underestimate him. When he returned from the Clear Sky School, Tang San had already understood that this was a world where you had to speak with strength. The one with the strongest fist was the one with the loudest voice. If he didn’t reveal his strength, others would only have a low opinion of him here.

His not using any force in his first punch was naturally not for the reason he said, but rather to make Niu Gao despise him. But this second punch used his real skill. Deathgod Domain’s evolved ability

Deathgod Assault, and further adding the instantly erupting short range power, already used his full strength. If anyone could see it, they would discover that after his right hand was wrapped up in the Deathgod Domain, it had completely turned a jade color. The extroverted force of the Controlling Crane Catching Dragon erupted completely. He had already warned Niu Gao when he punched the second time, as for whether Niu Gao would really listen, that wasn't his problem.

Tang San moved very quickly, from the Deathgod Domain condensing to the short range force erupting, only an instant passed. With the single attribute of defense, Niu Gao wasn't specialized in reaction. Suddenly feeling a chill approaching his chest, Tang San's fist was already planted in his stomach.

When Tang San's fist made contact, Tang San's face flushed red, but very quickly recovered to normal.

But Niu Gao's expression gradually changed from lifeless to grotesque. Suddenly, his face changed greatly, and immediately afterward, step, step, step, retreated three paces. Standing firm, opening his mouth, a white mist flowed out.

"Good kid."

Niu Gao was now both alarmed and furious. He had secretly sneered at that lightning bolt like attack of Tang San's even when it hit his chest, *'want to use a method like that? Can you imagine this old man's defense?'* Without even using his spirit, the durability of Niu Gao's skin wasn't any less than a real rhinoceros'.

However, as the fist reached him, he discovered it wasn't that simple. First, Tang San's punch just struck a great acupuncture point on his chest, and moreover the spirit power erupting over the short range completely condensed together. But most dreadful was still that concentrated Deathgod Assault. The instantly erupting killing intent wasn't something that could be blocked with physical defense.

Niu Gao only felt a great force reach him, he actually blocked that force, but the chill brought within the force pierced his chest like a steel needle, immediately numbing his whole body. That cold air

unexpectedly forced him to gasp for breath, and even his heart seemed agitated to the point of bursting. Fortunately his strength was tyrannical, and his defense powerful beyond powerful, with a heart far stronger than an ordinary person's. He then straightened with difficulty, opening his mouth to spit out white mist. That was the killing intent produced by Tang San's Deathgod Domain.

Watching Niu Gao successively retreat three steps, Tai Tan was also unable to conceal his shock. He was very clear on how powerful Niu Gao's defense was, he himself might not be able to injure that old man at all in a frontal confrontation even going all out. But he had retreated under Tang San's one punch. Just how had Tang San done it?

His heart still cold, a meaning from the depths of his heart made Niu Gao shiver. That ice cold and cruel killing intent had baptised him. Even though the attack power was great, he could still withstand it, but that frightful killing intent made him completely believe in Tai Tan's previous words. Tang San really was even more outstanding than Tang Hao. He was sure that Tang Hao, at Tang San's age, didn't have such strength. But that icy cold overbearing killing intent was exactly the same.

After Tai Tan's initial shock, he burst into laughter. Looking at Niu Gao's shriveled appearance after Tang San's attack made him indescribably happy. He hadn't seen his brother so embarrassed in a long time.

Actually, right now Tang San was also greatly startled. He had already been mentally prepared for Niu Gao's defense, but as this punch directly bombarded Niu Gao's chest, he still discovered that Niu Gao's defensive power wasn't as simple as he imagined.

First of all, his fist striking Niu Gao's chest hadn't felt the acupuncture point in his attack. Niu Gao's thick skin and muscles were just as tough as bullhide, and besides being extremely tough, there was also a kind of extraordinary elasticity. Just from this one punch, the rebound force made his wrist ache. Besides the Deathgod Assault, the short range produced spirit power was completely blocked by the skin.

Even if it was only a single attribute, just how frightening this pure attribute was could only be truly understood through experience.

Niu Gao glared resolutely at Tai Tan, his face already turned red as pork liver,

“Good kid, I won’t be polite with the second punch either.”

Suddenly shouting loudly, the entire hall trembled, left foot taking one step forward, right fist directly striking at Tang San. And his original plan to use fifty percent spirit power had already turned to seventy percent. Niu Gao meant to win with this punch. Being forced to retreat three steps by a youngster several decades his junior, to a grandmaster of defense like him, this was simply an extraordinary humiliation.

Hong—— A violent blast rose at Tang San’s chest, and Tai Tan’s smiling expression immediately vanished.

Tang San’s upper body was blown back so he faced upward, his feet also staggering backward. But the instant Niu Gao’s fist struck his body, one blue and one white, two colored lights instantly erupted.

Niu Gao felt his whole body turn cold, his heart contracting once, the force of this fist immediately weakening somewhat, and the feeling of his fist striking Tang San also startled him. As a grandmaster of defense, he clearly felt Tang San’s body brimming with an elastic feeling, with a peculiar resilience contained within the elasticity. As his fist struck, even though Tang San seemed blown back and swiftly retreating, Niu Gao discovered that, in fact, his power basically didn’t completely affect this youth’s body.

His body still swaying violently, at the same time, a burst of cracking sounds could be heard from Tang San’s bones, the white light he released vanished, but the blue light held a faint golden red color.

After directly retreating more than ten steps, Tang San managed to stand firm. But he wasn’t as easy going as before, his complexion seeming somewhat pale, his chest also heaving slightly. However, he still didn’t fall. Under the seventy percent strike of a Spirit Douluo, he

could still stand. This already proved a great many things.

While striking Tang San, Niu Gao regretted it a little. If Tang San really had an accident, there would be a great deal of trouble. Even if he didn't use spirit abilities, he still had complete faith in his strength and spirit power. However, Tang San still stood after retreating more than ten steps.

Simply moving his body, that blue and gold light slowly fading, Tang San's pale face unexpectedly turned healthy again, spreading a smile at Niu Gao,

"Senior, such powerful spirit power."

Niu Gao stupidly looked at him,

"Kid, isn't your spirit a cockroach? Even among my Defense Clan's disciple, there's none under the age of forty that can block my punch to this degree."

Tang San's smile didn't change. In terms of defensive strength, how could he be lacking? He knew clearly from experience what kind of painful upgrades his defensive strength had undergone.

First of all were his six spirit rings, skipping levels to absorb already from his third spirit ring. Enduring the tremendous pain at that time was a feat of heroism. With the circumstances of skipping a level to absorb it, at the same time as his strength rose, the attributes transformed by his spirit rings were far more powerful than those of Spirit Masters of equal level.

Next, taking the two great Octagonal Mysterious Ice Grass and Infernal Precious Apricot immortal herbs, forging his body in the Ice and Fire Yin Yang Well, further adding the transformation of the Blue Silver Emperor's second awakening, Xiao Wu's sacrificed hundred thousand year spirit ring transforming his body, as well as the amplified attributes of those four heavenly blessed spirit bones. All these elements superimposed over each other, producing the terrifying defensive power Tang San now possessed. Among equally leveled Spirit Masters, his defense could absolutely be regarded as the strongest. Perhaps one might say that, of Spirit Masters under

the seventieth rank, there wasn't anyone who could compete with him in defensive power, not even the Defense Clan.

When he still didn't possess Xiao Wu's spirit ring and spirit bone, he could already endure the attacks of Spirit Sages without dying, finally when his right leg broke it was due to him taking the initiative to reduce his defense, deliberately sacrificing himself to save Xiao Wu.

Tang San shook his head to Niu Gao with a smile,

"Junior comes from the Clear Sky School. How could I possess a cockroach spirit?"

When Tai Tan saw Tang San was alright, he also loosed a long breath, laughing out loud:

"I think like this. Two punches each, if it goes on like this, friendliness will be injured. I don't want either of you to suffer any injuries. Old rhino, you're already so old, can't you calm down a bit? It's better than being that competitive."

Niu Gao snapped:

"Bullshit. Can he injure me? I admit that this kid really is pretty good, your evaluation of him isn't any exaggeration. However, with his present strength it's still impossible for him to injure me."

Tai Tan pursed his lips,

"Impossible? Before his second attack just now, could you imagine he'd push you back three steps? Didn't you still retreat? How do you know he doesn't have some unique skill for the third blow? To let you old brat suffer a major loss."

Niu Gao grew angrier,

"No matter what's said this old man is still a Spirit Douluo, if that happens, there's no need for me to go out in public any more. Old orangutan, you still underestimate me too much. Fine, Tang San, as long as your third punch can make me retreat further than you just did, not only can you stay, but hereafter my Defense Clan won't be

your enemy any longer, the matters from those days struck.”

Tang San exulted, he had finally found a way to resolve this hatred. Hastily he said:

“Then it’s settled.”

Niu Gao spread his feet, both hands behind his back, proudly saying:

“Come.”

To the side, Tai Tan snickered inwardly,

“Niu Gao, ah, Niu Gao. For so many years, you’re still so easy to rile up. Not as steady as me. Perhaps this time you really will suffer a loss. You’ve separated from the Clear Sky School for too long, you’ve even forgotten about the Clear Sky School’s formidable ability. Tang San could make you retreat three steps just now, then, now he can just have you retreat further than he did.”

Tang San was an intelligent person, and absolutely wouldn’t let Tai Tan down. Taking a stance five steps away from Niu Gao, he drew a deep breath, spirit power swelling all over his body. Mysterious Heaven Skill accelerating made him seem to immediately flourish with imposing manner.

Niu Gao was closest to him, and naturally felt it the deepest. The spirit power Tang San released shocked him, that was spirit power over the sixtieth rank! Could it be that this youth in front of him actually already possessed strength exceeding the sixtieth rank? No, that was impossible. Absolutely impossible.

However, even if he didn’t believe it, the facts were already before his eyes.

Tang San slowly raised his right arm. This time, he didn’t use Deathgod Domain, his right fist slowly turning a lustrous jade color under the effect of Mysterious Heaven Skill. In order not to injure himself from the countershock of striking the opponent, he was already using Mysterious Jade Hand to the limit.

“Kid, what are you stalling for? Come.”

Niu Gao shouted. This time, he wasn't the slightest bit careless. His face concerned, spirit power covered his whole body, his defensive strength reaching a peak. This was already the most powerful defense he could muster without using his spirit and spirit abilities.

Tang San moved, toes pointing to the ground, using his calfs to generate force, he suddenly half turned, his right arm swinging out. Only, this punch of his didn't strike Niu Gao, but rather hit empty air.

Tang San's movements were very fast, a second punch immediately following behind the first, the imposing manner instantly superimposing over each other. Amidst the compressed spirit power, white light could already be glimpsed.

Seeing this second punch, Niu Gao's expression had changed. In his mind he also finally thought of that name. Yes, this kid came from the Clear Sky School, how couldn't he know this ability? Only, right now he didn't use the hammer, but rather his hand, how much of its power could he display?

That's right, what Tang San was using was the Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method. Using his fist as hammer was originally seen very rarely. Since the Clear Sky Hammer was a spirit, it could be used at any time. But even though he lost the amplification of the Clear Sky Hammer when using his fist, the efficacy of the Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method didn't decrease.

Tang San's hard training under the waterfall wasn't in vain. How many years did a person have in their lives? That was at least one percent of his lifetime he had spent completely immersed in uncomplicated hammer method. Using it again now was like driving a cart on a familiar road, without the least delay.

Tang San quickly rotated with his left foot as axis. Nobody had stated you couldn't store strength before the attack, just that the method Tang San used to store strength made Niu Gao's complete confidence start to show cracks.

The Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method was split into several levels, the simplest was nine swings, followed by eighteen swings, thirty six swings, sixty four swings and, most powerful, eighty one

swings.

In a fight against ordinary Spirit Masters, it would be very difficult for this hammer method to show its effect, only when meeting abilities like Feng Xiaotian's Stormwind Demon Wolf Thirty Six Successive Chops last time could it collide.

But now he had ample time to store strength. Niu Gao only prayed to himself, hoping Tang San's Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method wasn't trained higher than the sixty fourth swing level. Even if his defensive power was strong, if he truly faced the superimposed blast of those eighty one swings, he wouldn't have any certainty either. Let alone when Tang San's spirit power was so much stronger than he had anticipated.

Spinning like a top, each of Tang San's punches blasted out very rhythmically. In the center of his fast rotation, his left foot never left that spot. Making Niu Gao most nervous was that the spirit power Tang San released didn't give him any pressure, but was rather completely contained within that circle of rotation.

The white light gradually grew richer, wrapping up Tang San's swiftly spinning body, making people unable to see his figure. As Spirit Douluo, whether Tai Tan or Niu Gao, both could feel the constantly rising terrifying force within that white ball of light.

173 – Broken Guard, Disorder Splitting Wind Power

When Tang San practiced under the waterfall, he had stood on a smooth round rock, an extreme tempering of his balance, now was the first time he had fully used it outside, spirit power surged within him, giving him a kind of carefree and uninhibited feeling.

Finally, nine by nine, the last of eighty one hammer blows swung out. Rich white light instantly grew, not only Tang San's attack power, but at the same time also the Deathgod Domain he released. In order to force this Defense Clan to submit, he could spare no effort.

Tai Tan shouted:

“Old rhino, use your spirit!”

Right now Niu Gao didn't care about face either. After all, compared to face, life was more important. His originally broad body swiftly expanded, his skin instantly turning black, an extremely thick keratin layer abruptly emerging, his first, second, and third, the three spirit rings that required least spirit power and released the fastest instantly flaring with radiance. It truly made Niu Gao's imposing build turn into a defensive rampart.

Hong——

After fully storing force, the Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method was terrifying. Even though it lacked the backing of the Clear Sky hammer, the spirit power of the final of these overlapping eighty one strikes, instantly erupted with attack power that left people speechless.

The force erupting from that punch was just as overbearing as the roar of a dragon or tiger. The frightening force that once made a two hundred meters tall waterfall reverse its current emerged once again. The vast spirit power suddenly engulfed that imposing figure, tyrannical burst strength instantly exploding.

Amidst an explosion, Niu Gao's huge body shot out like an artillery shell. With the influence of the Deathgod Domain, Tang San's attack power had risen somewhat further, and Niu Gao's defense dropped a bit. With one lowering and one rising, the result of the attack grew even more frightening.

That mountain like body instantly flew out, blasting the wall of the great hall perfectly straight, leaving a human shaped hole.

It had to be said, the Defense Clan's constructions was quite sturdy. Even though the entire hall shook, in the end nothing collapsed.

Tang San's rotation had already halted, his chest constantly heaving. Without the support of the Clear Sky Hammer, the might of this Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method had weakened a lot, and it furthermore greatly increased his exhaustion. The full eighty one swings unexpectedly reduced his spirit power by more than fifty percent.

Tai Tan stepped up behind Tang San with large strides, one hand falling on his shoulder, infusing his spirit power. Even though the profound spirit power couldn't restore him, it could help him control his breathing.

Urgent footsteps echoed from outside. Previously Niu Gao was just happily engrossed in chatting with Tai Tan, to the extent he had even forgotten to serve tea. But when such a loud disturbance occurred here, the entire Defense Clan was alarmed.

With flapping sounds, more than twenty people rushed in from outside, each and everyone imposing. The person in the lead looked eight parts similar to Niu Gao, just that he was a lot younger. On entering the hall he looked at Tai Tan.

"So uncle Tai is here. Yi, you're here, then why isn't my dad here? What was that noise just now?"

While the big guy deferentially saluted Tai Tan, he asked somewhat puzzled.

Tai Tan glanced at Tang San, his expression turning extremely odd. They had come as guests, but had blasted the host through the wall.

Of course he wasn't concerned for Niu Gao. If Tang San had used the Clear Sky Hammer, perhaps he really could have injured him, but with an empty fist, even the eighty one swing Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer Method couldn't cause any true harm to Niu Gao with his spirit released.

Tai Long said in a low voice next to Tang San's ear:

"He's called Niu Ben^[1], he's grandpa Niu Gao's eldest son, a good friend of my dad. His talent is a lot better than my dad's, his spirit power cultivation should be about the same as young master."

Before Tai Tan could reply, the host returned. At the hole, Niu Gao crawled inside with his head and face filthy. His jacket was already torn, his spirit withdrawn, but his dusty figure and that monstrous expression had people holding their sides from laughter.

Niu Ben and the Defense Clan clansmen looked dumbstruck at old Niu Gao, each and everyone staring blankly. Niu Ben even rubbed his eyes hard, making sure he wasn't hallucinating.

"Uncle Tai Tan, this is your fault. How could you bully my dad!"

Niu Ben forced back a smile, speaking to Tai Tan. Because of his relationship with Tai Nuo, and further how Tai Tan had seen him grow up, they were always very close. That's why he wasn't too worried.

Tai Tan laughed heartily, saying:

"Who asked your dad to insist on competing? Wasn't this sorted out by me? Never mind, never mind, us two old fellows casually exchanged pointers a bit. You didn't see when your uncle was losing. You can't be partial towards your dad!"

Niu Gao shot Tai Tan a glare. Tai Tan was clearly covering for him. In a rage from humiliation, this rage was vented on his son,

"Bastards, who asked you to come in here? Didn't you see me and Tai Tan were talking about old times? Get lost, fuck off from here."

Niu Ben was still a man in his fifties, but there was no anger from being cursed at by Niu Gao. In the Defense Clan, Niu Gao was an

absolute authority. This was also why Niu Ben wanted to laugh when he saw his father in such a sorry state.

“Fine, fine, don’t get angry dad. I’m fucking off. You old brothers go on..... talking. I’ll prepare you food and drink.” Finished speaking, Niu Ben hastily waved his hand, leading the Defense Clan members in a kind of retreat.

Tai Tan sighed:

“Niu Ben that kid is a lot stronger than my Tai Nuo. Dealing with more and more business. And still without inheriting your stinking personality. Pretty good, pretty good.”

“Pretty good my farts.”

Niu Gao’s expression was now unwilling. Furiously walking over, he patted the dust from himself. Even if he was unwilling, he still had to face Tang San.

“Kid, you won. Just now I used my spirit, no need to punch you a third time. This old man keeps his promises. From here on, our Defense Clan won’t have any enmity towards your father and you.”

Seeing Niu Gao gnashing his teeth, Tang San couldn’t help smiling. He of course noticed that there was no intention of easing the tension with the Clear Sky School in Niu Gao’s words. But he didn’t mind. Even if the Clear Sky School was his sect, they really owed these subsidiary clans too much. That wasn’t something that could be resolved in a little while or by a simple contest. It could only be slowly worked out.

“It was senior who was careless, allowing junior to pull a trick. In an ordinary battle, how could junior have the time to store so much force.”

Niu Gao snorted,

“Fine, a loss is a loss. Don’t tell me this old man is a person who still wouldn’t admit defeat? You can stay this time.”

Tai Tan grinned:

“By the way you look, it doesn’t look like you’re admitting it. Are you ending it like this? Your most powerful defense lost to a youngster. Won’t you show it?”

Niu Gao said angrily:

“Show what? Don’t tell me you want to have me bring the Defense Clan to serve him?”

Tai Tan smiled:

“No need for that. However, recently me and young master have been preparing to establish a sect called Tang Sect, are you interested in joining? Since the contradiction between you and master and young master is resolved, there shouldn’t be any obstacles.”

Niu Gao pulled out a chair and sat down,

“Give me a break. I knew you didn’t have any good intentions with bringing this kid. Old orangutan, I think you’re an old fool. Haven’t you had enough of the Clear Sky School? Are you planning on letting us experience another calamity?”

Tai Tan helplessly shook his head,

“Let it be. It can’t be explained in a short time. I say, Niu Gao, Niu Gao, you’re still too neglectful of this old brother. Shouldn’t tea be served first? Also, what does your appearance look like to your clansmen? Go change clothes quickly.”

Niu Gao somewhat resentfully shot Tai Tan a glare,

“This isn’t because of your provocations. I’ll go change clothes.”

Finished speaking, he then left in large strides.

Watching Niu Gao’s disappearing back, Tai Tan said to Tang San:

“Young master, you really shock me! That’s really like you, hitting the old rhino in the area he’s most skilled. No wonder you wanted to come with me, it seems you’ve thought up countermeasures well in advance. But the old rhino is a stubborn one, he won’t compromise

so easily.”

Tang San sighed lightly, saying:

“Actually, I don’t want to compromise with senior Niu Gao about anything. I just wanted to dissolve the hatred from back then. We were once one family after all, the present appearance of the four single attribute clans were all caused by the Clear Sky School being closed. I only want to do something for the four clans. There’s no need for you to pressure senior Niu Gao into joining our Tang Sect. As long as they no longer hold grudges against my father, I’m content.”

The son repays the debts of the father, right now Tang San had just begun to settle his father’s debts. He only wanted to be able to dissolve old hatred on behalf of his father in the future, then destroy the true enemy.

The two had just exchanged these simple words, as Niu Gao returned from outside. Standing in the doorway he said to Tang San:

“Kid, what’s your spirit power rank?”

Looking at the gloomy faced straightforward old man, Tang San replied respectfully:

“Junior’s spirit power is sixty sixth rank. Control type Spirit Emperor.”

Niu Gao stared blankly a moment,

“Control type? When did the Clear Sky Hammer become a control type spirit?”

Tai Tan laughed:

“Hurry up and change your clothes. We’ll talk when you’re back, this isn’t something that can be explained in a couple of sentences.”

Niu Gao somewhat puzzled glanced at Tai Tan, then turned and left again. As he walked, he still mumbled to himself,

“Sixty sixth rank, twenty one years old sixty sixth rank. Is that still human?”

Not long after Niu Gao left, subordinates brought fragrant tea. Clearly it was his instructions when he first left. There were also Defense Clan clansmen who started to repair the hole Niu Gao had made in the wall from outside.

Tai Tan sipped the tea, saying to Tang San:

“Young master, you should have seen it too. Me and Niu Gao’s relationship is extremely good. We have a friendship for life. Honestly speaking, I want Niu Gao to bring the Defense Clan into the Tang Sect, not only for you, young master, but even more for my own selfishness. I’m old, I really hope I can live together with my brother of so many years. Everyone looks out for each other, as partners. I will persuade him as much as possible. Even if Niu Gao is straightforward, he absolutely isn’t stupid. I think he’ll understand. If he wants to lead the Defense Clan to the Tang Sect, I hope young master can give an old man some face.”

Tang San smiled:

“If it’s really like that, it’s exactly what I’ve been looking for! With the Defense Clan’s construction arts and your forging arts, wouldn’t that turn our Tang Sect into a copper wall and iron bastion?”

Niu Gao wasn’t gone for long, in a while he had already changed into clean clothes and returned. On entering, his first words were still to Tang San,

“Kid, you really are sixty sixth rank?”

Tang San nodded.

Niu Gao walked over and sat next to Tai Tan, his eyes revealing a somewhat pondering light. Tai Tan didn’t disturb him, letting him think.

Twenty one years old, sixty sixth rank, powerful defensive strength, absolutely not below Defense Clan members of the same level. And the Clear Sky School’s child. When did they ever lack attack power? What Niu Gao first thought of was Tang San’s future prospects. No need to doubt, before he was out of his twenties, Tang San would definitely become a peak expert. And moreover an extremely powerful kind.

Even Title Douluo would have no small gap in strength. Like when Tang Hao was at the peak of his strength, simultaneously taking on three ordinary Title Douluo wouldn't be any problem. He alone would make Spirit Hall leap like chickens or dogs. Niu Gao understood that if he offended such a promising Spirit Master, it absolutely wouldn't be beneficial to the Defense Clan's future.

The Defense Clan really were skilled in building, the hole in the wall was already sealed in such a short time.

Tai Tan said:

"Old rhino, I know you've figured something out. Don't think more. I'll settle your confidence. Let the servants withdraw."

Even though Niu Gao didn't know what Tai Tan wanted to do, but he still did as requested.

Tai Tan also waved a hand to his own clansmen and, besides Tai Long and Ma Hongjun, had the others first wait outside the hall.

Niu Gao looked somewhat puzzled at Tai Tan,

"Old orangutan, what are you being so secretive about?"

Tai Tan smiled calmly, saying:

"I just don't want you to complain later. I'll let you know too that your big brother absolutely doesn't make decisions easily. Young master, let him see your spirit."

Tang San met Tai Tan's gaze, both their eyes revealing a tacit understanding. Standing up, light flashed in Tang San's eyes, raising his left hand, black light surged inside, the Clear Sky hammer already appearing in his grasp.

Niu Gao looked doubtfully at Tang San, saying to Tai Tan:

"Old orangutan, don't tell me I haven't seen the Clear Sky Hammer before? Yi, kid, why don't you have any spirit rings?"

Tang San smiled slightly,

"Junior's Clear Sky Hammer really doesn't have spirit rings."

Tai Tan said:

“Don’t worry, watch slowly.”

Tang San turned over his left hand, the Clear Sky Hammer withdrawn. Immediately afterward, amidst a layer of blue radiance, he raised his right hand, blue golden Blue Silver Emperor scattering from the light condensed within him, an aura full of vitality immediately filling the hall.

The instant the Blue Silver Emperor emerged, Niu Gao had suddenly shot to his feet. Because he saw those six glittering spirit rings around Tang San.

None white, the lowest was yellow, yellow, purple black, Niu Gao was very familiar with these three colors. As a Spirit Douluo, he naturally possessed spirit rings of these three colors. However, as he saw that final mysterious dark red, his brain had sunk into white blankness.

“No need for surprise. The young master isn’t short of miracles. Did you see? The first time I saw it, my expression was a lot better than yours.”

Tai Tan said with feeling.

Tang San hadn’t hidden anything from Tai Tan, this old man who supported him wholeheartedly, had already seen Tang San’s frightful hundred thousand year spirit ring on the road. At that time his expression was almost identical to Niu Gao’s right now. Tang San didn’t say anything, but by his sorrowful expression when he looked at his hundred thousand year spirit ring, Tai Tan didn’t ask anything. He understood that this was Tang San’s trust in him, and also accorded him trust in return.

Swallowing forcefully, Niu Gao mumbled:

“Hundred thousand year, this really is a hundred thousand year spirit ring..... No wonder, no wonder your defensive strength is so powerful. Only, at your level, how could you absorb a hundred thousand year spirit ring?”

Each time he looked at that red spirit ring, Tang San couldn't keep from remembering that scene of Xiao Wu sacrificing herself. The expression in his eyes immediately turned sad, he pulled Xiao Wu from the Wishful Hundred Treasure Purse,

"I'm sorry, senior. I don't want to answer your question. If I could choose, I would prefer not to have this spirit ring."

While speaking, he slowly withdrew his spirit.

Tai Tan signaled Niu Gao with his eyes, hinting he shouldn't keep asking. Niu Gao drew a deep breath. Suddenly, his expression changed greatly, as if thinking of something, his voice trembled somewhat:

"Wait a minute, you, you have two spirits?"

Sitting to the side, Ma Hongjun was already somewhat impatient,

"My bro has twin spirits! What's strange about this."

Niu Gao stared wide eyed,

"Little fatty, you really speak casually. How many twin spirits have you seen?"

"Eh..... This....."

Ma Hongjun couldn't answer immediately.

Niu Gao gasped hoarsely for a few breaths, after a long time looking at Tai Tan again,

"Old brother, you bringing him this time, is to force me to gamble!"

Tai Tan sighed, saying:

"I'm not forcing you. How to decide is up to you. I only hope that we brothers can be together in our remaining years, just like before. Matching our strength every day, drinking together. You should know I'm not a negligent person. Naturally I have reasons for my decisions."

Niu Gao lowered his voice:

“But, you should also know that the two great Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School and Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan have been destroyed. There’s no need to ask to know who did it. Before long, I’m afraid our Spirit Master world will be reshuffled again. I have to consider my clansmen. Here, the worst choice is to adhere to Spirit Hall. I have to consider the continuation of the whole clan.”

Tai Tan said:

“Our sect isn’t a Spirit Master sect in the traditional sense. Simply said, we’re more like a business. Just a business with formidable military strength.”

Niu Gao stared blankly,

“Business? I don’t understand.”

Tang San smiled:

“There’s always a need for income to provide for the members of the sect. Our Tang Sect’s first client is the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School. It’s also a long term client. I think the next client will be the Heaven Dou imperial family. Besides Spirit Hall, we’ll do business with anyone.”

Just at this moment, Niu Ben came in from outside. Afraid to draw his father’s anger, he specially knocked on the door as he entered,

“Dad, uncle Tai Tan, the food is ready, do you want to eat while chatting?”

Niu Gao nodded, saying to Tai Tan:

“Let’s go, we’ll eat while talking.”

Hearing talk of food, Ma Hongjun immediately grew excited. He was hungry since earlier, and couldn’t help asking Niu Ben:

“Is there meat? I want a big, big piece.”

Niu Ben laughed out loud,

“Little fatty, if our Defense Clan lacks anything, it isn’t meat. Even if our spirit is the Plate Armored Giant Rhinoceros, we’re all

carnivorous. There's enough."

At the table, Tang San immediately understood what Niu Ben meant about being carnivorous. The whole three meter diameter large table was piled up with meat dishes, not a vegetable dish in sight.

There was even more three jars of wine, ten *jīn* size, holding alcohol. Drinking in big gulps, eating big mouthfuls of meat, perhaps this was the nature of those with outspoken characters.

Tang San never thought he was a small eater, but seeing this table he knew what was called being a minor magician in the presence of great ones. Let alone, Niu Ben, Tai Long and the others, the appetite of the two clan chiefs was astonishing. Great chunks of meat were swallowed as if there was no need to chew. They drank one *jīn* of wine in one gulp. Moreover, they were on their second bowl of wine before Tang San saw his first.

"Kid, come, drink!"

Niu Gao handed wine to Tang San.

Tang San immediately smiled wryly,

"Senior, you drink. If I finish such a large cup of wine, I'm afraid I won't be able to sit at the table."

Niu Gao frowned,

"Why can't youngsters drink? When I was your age, I drank huge volumes."

Tang San smiled:

"You still have huge volumes now. Since it's senior's invitation, I'll accompany you for a cup."

Speaking, he drained the cup in front of him until it was basically empty. When drinking, he was using Mysterious Heaven Skill to protect his throat, swiftly letting that wine flow into his stomach, basically without tasting it.

Niu Gao also drank in big mouthfuls, laughing loudly,

“Right, this is the heroic spirit youths should have.”

Tang San had never had so much wine, and also drank very rarely. Right now he only felt a burning sensation in his stomach, scalding his face deep red, speechless.

Just when Tang San secretly regretted being so impulsive, suddenly, the Mysterious Heaven Skill circulated within him, an ice cold feeling merging into the blazing heat. The flow of his blood seemed to speed up, that scorching sensation very quickly turning into a warm current. Not only did the painful feeling disappear, he on the contrary had a refreshing feeling of his blood vessels being unimpeded.

Because he only drank low strength wine when he drank before, this was actually his first time drinking such strong wine. It was also the first time he felt the effects of high strength wine.

In fact, there was a very close relationship between capacity for wine and the condition of the body, and Tang San's physical condition could be said to be so good it couldn't be better. Having passed countless times of forging, his body had an extremely powerful ability to absorb wine. Especially the baptism to his energy channels of the Octagonal Mysterious Ice Grass and Infernal Precious Apricot. Even though he couldn't be said to be immune to poison, absorbing a bit of strong drink wasn't a problem.

Strong drink could improve blood circulation, and a bit of wine was advantageous to the body. Tang San's physical absorption ability could completely absorb this much wine.

Niu Gao watched Tang San empty the cup, his face already deep red, and immediately understood that this youngster wasn't any big drinker. That he could happily drink such a large cup, and even not say anything, that gave him face. In his heart he could help having a bit of favorable opinion towards Tang San.

Loosing a long breath, Tang San slowly passed his breath, saying to Niu Gao:

“Senior, junior really has a low capacity for drinking. I'm afraid I can only accompany you for this one cup.”

Niu Gao laughed loudly, saying:

“Good. This old man won’t force you, I’ve finally regained my face at the wine table. You little fellow really is strong, this is the first time I’ve lost since settling in Rising Dragon City.”

Tang San knew he still had some bad feelings about him winning before, and smiled:

“Actually it was only junior using some tricks. In true defensive strength, how could junior compare to senior?”

To the side, Niu Ben heard something a bit odd, but his questions were stopped by a look from Tai Tan.

Niu Gao said:

“A loss is a loss. There’s no need for you to gild an old man’s face. It seems I really am old.”

Tang San said:

“Junior isn’t being modest. In fact, junior took a very large advantage. It might seem that junior’s proposal not to use spirit was disadvantageous to myself, but in fact, it was to blunt senior. Even if junior used spirit abilities, it would absolutely be impossible to compare to senior in defensive strength. Moreover, the Disorder Splitting Wind Hammer method could only display its power in circumstances where it can store power like that. Junior was using my own strengths to attack senior’s weaknesses, then luckily obtained senior’s approval. If senior had used your full strength once, junior would have been unable to resist. Rather than saying it was junior’s win, it would be better to call it senior’s consideration for the younger generation.”

Hearing Tang San say this, Niu Gao blinked, his originally depressed mood easing a lot. Smiling, he said:

“Good kid, you can actually talk. I don’t recall a child of the Clear Sky School that could talk like you before.”

This moment, Niu Ben could no longer restrain himself, his

expression changing,

“Dad, he’s from the Clear Sky School? You…….”

“Shut up.”

Niu Gao shot his son a glare,

“Even if he’s from the Clear Sky School, I’ve already promised him that our grievances with the Clear Sky School will no longer be related to him. He was brought by your uncle Tai Tan, hereafter he’s a friend of our Defense Clan.”

Niu Ben was in a daze as he heard his father’s words. He knew how deep his father’s complaints of the Clear Sky School were. That this youth in front of him could actually make his father give up on his grudges now definitely wasn’t just because Tai Tan had stepped in.

Niu Gao drank another cup with Tai Tan, then asked:

“Old Tai Tan, carefully tell me about that Tang Sect.”

Tai Tan nodded, saying:

“This Tang Sect of ours is established in the mansion of my Strength Clan. It’s mainly to manufacture a kind of special weapon called hidden weapons, selling them and using them to increase our own strength. Our Strength Clan is well known for forging. Young master brought some exceptionally good designs. If they could be mass produced, they could be enormously dangerous to low level Spirit Masters. If we succeed, then our forging world won’t be as lowly as it is now. Dealt with appropriately, even Spirit Hall could be threatened.”

“Special weapons capable of threatening Spirit Masters?”

Niu Gao looked at Tai Tan not quite daring to believe it. He didn’t doubt Tai Tan, he believed this brother of his wouldn’t shoot without aim. But reason made it difficult to accept this as fact.

Tang San pulled out the Godly Zhuge Crossbow from his chest. Seeing once is better than hearing a hundred times, more talk wouldn’t display the strength of Tang Sect hidden weapons.

Under everyone's attentive gazes, with a series of sonorous noises, Tang San had wound the Godly Zhuge Crossbow's mechanism.

"Senior, could I ask you to block with your spirit? Like that you should be able to best feel its power."

Watching the small black box in Tang San's hand, Niu Gao grew even a bit more doubtful of what Tai Tan said. Could such a small thing deal with Spirit Masters?

Tai Tan said:

"Old rhino, absolutely don't underestimate this thing. Within a certain range, it's killing power is quite considerable. I tried it once. It really makes you gasp. Very difficult for Spirit Masters under the fortieth rank to resist, and even past the fortieth rank, without using defensive abilities in advance, getting killed wouldn't be any surprise. You know the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School. They were attacked at the same time as the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan. That in the end they could save the majority of the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School's direct descendants wasn't because their attackers started off leniently, nor was it because they had less experts than the contingent aimed at the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan. It was because these Godly Zhuge Crossbow hidden weapons had an important effect. It was by relying on more than a hundred of such hidden weapons that they blocked the raiders' tidal attack."

Niu Gao was shocked,

"Really?"

Tai Tan pointed to the Godly Zhuge Crossbow in Tang San's hand,

"You try and you'll know."

Niu Gao no longer hesitated, immediately releasing his spirit, his pitiful jacked once again bursting from the defensive power. His first, second, and third spirit rings flashed simultaneously, his whole body covered densely with a layer of horn plates just like plate armor.

"Come, kid. My current defensive strength counts as that of a fiftieth

ranked Spirit Master going all out.”

“Senior, be careful.”

Tang San shouted, pushing the trigger button on the Godly Zhuge Crossbow.

At such close range, practically nobody saw the Godly Zhuge Crossbow firing. There was only a flash of shadow, before a series of popping noises sounded at Niu Gao’s chest.

Sixteen crossbow bolts rebounded without exception. Tang San reached out, using Controlling Crane Catching Dragon to pull them into his grasp.

Everyone’s eyes all fell on Niu Gao’s chest, finding sixteen neat white scars on that solid plate armor, each mark half a *cun* deep or so.

Tang San couldn’t help sighing in admiration:

“Senior, good defense.”

Niu Gao grinned, using his hand to rub the scars on his chest, the plate armor healing at a miraculous speed,

“It smarts. Old orangutan, you didn’t exaggerate. If this was a Spirit Master under fortieth rank, he absolutely couldn’t resist. Such a small thing, how can it have such great power? Really difficult to believe! Once your Tang Sect is established, sell me a batch as well. Our Defense Clan has always lacked attack power. This toy is pretty good.”

Tai Tan laughed loudly,

“That’s still just a common thing, there are even more formidable ones. With true top quality hidden weapons, even Spirit Sages might not be able to resist. You can buy if you can, I’ll give you the manufacturing price. Young master, what’s our manufacturing price for the Godly Zhuge Crossbow?”

Tang San pondered, then said:

“Consider it sixty gold spirit coins.”

“So expensive?”

Niu Gao stared wide eyed at Tang San. In fact, the entire building planning and construction business of his clan only had a few hundred gold spirit coins in income each month. Not every clan was as wealthy as the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School.

The price Tang San mentioned really didn't count as high either. The Godly Zhuge Crossbow's real manufacturing price was around thirty gold spirit coins, but to that was added the labour cost and the price of poison for the bolts, making sixty gold spirit coins the real manufacturing price.

Back when Tang San sold to the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School, a full set was five hundred gold spirit coins. Among this set of hidden weapons, chief was the Godly Zhuge Crossbow. There were still Sleeve Darts, Sand Projecting Shadow, Tight Back Lowering Head Crossbow and so on. The complete manufacturing price didn't surpass two hundred gold spirit coins.

Tang San laughed loudly, saying:

“This Godly Zhuge Crossbow is made from refined iron, requiring extremely high skill. The crossbow bolts are dipped in poison, if not for the horn plates on your chest, perhaps you would already be poisoned. I'll trouble you to go carefully wash it off later. The manufacturing cost for each Godly Zhuge Crossbow really is sixty gold spirit coins. If it was on the market, it would be roughly over one hundred fifty gold spirit coins.”

Niu Gao looked over Tang San, then again looked at Tai Tan,

“Isn't that robbery? Our Defense Clan's income in one month is only a few of these toys.”

Tai Tan looked at Niu Gao with meaning in his eyes,

“That's why I say that our Tang Sect's road of money is immeasurable! Since it wouldn't appear at the heart of conflict, there can be a certain profit. In the relative safety of Heaven Dou City, quietly watching the world changing outside.”

Notes

1. Niu Ben - (牛奔) "Bovine Rush"

174 – Defense Clan Enters Tang Sect

Niu Gao looked unhappily at Tai Tan,

“Fine, don’t tempt me. I still have to think it over carefully. As for that, even though this thing of yours is attractive, it’s still not that powerful. After all, we rely on defensive power to protect ourselves. However, to the Speed Clan, this thing is quite useful!”

“Eh?”

Niu Gao’s words were like a meticulous jab at Tang San. Tang San was intelligent, and immediately understood his meaning. The Speed Clan’s main ability was speed, there was no need to doubt their superiority in speed. But at the same time, because of the single attribute, even if they had speed, they really were rather weak in other areas. With speed, they could dodge instead of block, but what about attacking? Even though speed and force were directly related, the boost to attack power was still limited.

If the Speed Clan’s speed was matched with the attack power of hidden weapons, it would undoubtedly substantially increase their overall strength. Moreover, among all the four single attribute clans, it was the Speed Clan whose fortunes were worst. Niu Gao’s meaning seemed to be, rather than roping in their Defense Clan, it would be better to make plans for the Speed Clan.

Just when Tang San was pondering the deep meaning within Niu Gao’s words, a Defense Clan clansman hastily entered from outside, quickly stepping over to Niu Gao, leaning over to whisper a few words by his ear.

Hearing his words, Niu Gao couldn’t keep his expression from changing,

“What did they come to do? Old orangutan, the Elephant Armored School’s people came.”

Tai Tan frowned,

“Who?”

Niu Gao stood, saying:

“Heavenly Elephant Huyan Zhen came personally. I have to give him some face.”

Tai Tan said:

“Then fine. I’ll go with you to take a look.”

With the two both getting up, the younger generation naturally followed. Tang San wasn’t conceited about his own position, following the two clan chiefs alongside Tai Long and Ma Hongjun.”

Just at the courtyard, everyone’s gazes were immediately drawn to those five enormous bodies. The leader was past his seventh decade, and at a visual estimate, he was at least two and a half meters tall. He stood there like a mountain of meat. Dark skin, a pair of large eyes like copper bells. His dark skin seemed to have a particular luster. This was the Elephant Armored School master, Heavenly Elephant Huyan Zhen.

The four people following behind Huyan Zhen also seemed past sixty, their builds only slightly inferior to Huyan Zhen. Each and every one were reserved, and the five people standing there were like five large mountains, their might impressive.

Huyan Zhen was clearly familiar with Niu Gao from before, and seeing Niu Gao lead everyone out, he immediately laughed loudly, stepping forward to meet them with large strides,

“Brother Niu, we haven’t met for some time. How is it, have you been well?”

Niu Gao returned the politeness with a somewhat skin deep smile,

“Thanks to luck, my body is still healthy. I don’t know for what errand the noble Heavenly Elephant graces us with his presence?”

Huyan Zhen laughed loudly, saying:

“Brother Niu, this definitely isn’t right, don’t tell me you won’t invite a brother to sit and chat? Oh, this old brother’s stature is so robust, I don’t know who he is?”

His gaze fell on Tai Tan.

Niu Gao said calmly:

“This is my big brother Tai Tan. We’ll go speak in the drawing room.”

Huyan Zhen’s eyes displayed a trace of astonishment,

“So it’s the Strength Clan’s boss, old brother Tai Tan. Just in time, this saves me another trip to Heaven Dou City.”

Tang San coolly watched from the side, inwardly he had some speculations as to the reasons for Huyan Zhen’s visit.

Entering the drawing room, everyone separately sat as hosts and guests. Tang San very naturally stood behind Tai Tan, without sitting down. In front of the Elephant Armored School, he still didn’t want to reveal his identity. Consequently, only the two clan chiefs and that Heavenly Elephant were qualified to sit in the drawing room.

Niu Gao ordered people to serve tea. With difficulty squeezing out a smile, he asked Heavenly Elephant Huyan Zhen:

“Brother Huyan, say it straight. Everyone are aching to get on with it. You wouldn’t visit the temple without cause!”

“Fine, let’s get on with it.”

Huyan Zhen wasn’t particularly polite either. Even though Tai Tan’s appearance ruined his plans to some extent, that still couldn’t block him from reaching his purpose.

“You old brothers should have heard it. The Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan was destroyed, the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School seriously injured. The three upper sects of the seven great sects only exist in name. And the current Spirit Hall Supreme Pontiff has already issued a decree, to hold an assembly to select a new seven great sects in one year.”

Niu Gao said:

“How is that related to us? My tiny Defense Clan naturally doesn’t have the strength to go fight over this.”

Huyan Zhen laughed loudly, saying:

“Don’t hide it old brother, little brother has some plans for this reselection assembly. What I’m talking about this time, is to seize a position among the three upper sects. That’s the reason for this visit, I hope to obtain big brother’s support! If our Elephant Armored School joined hands with your Defense Clan, in the Spirit Master world, who could contend with us? At least it would be an invincible position. At that time, at Spirit Hall, our position would naturally also rise like the boat with the tide, becoming the overlords of a faction wouldn’t be a problem. As long as brother agrees, the position of Elephant Armored School’s vice school master is yours. Little brother would be on an equal footing with you, how about it?”

The more he heard Huyan Zhen say, the gloomier Niu Gao’s expression became. What he said might sound grand, but the implication was that he would annex the Defense Clan. This was already offending Niu Gao’s bottom line.

“Old brother Huyan, don’t tell me you’ve forgotten who originally forced us to become like stray dogs? Almost didn’t leave us with room to stand?”

Huyan Zhen said:

“Brother Niu, that’s already so many years in the past, as they say, there are no eternal enemies, only eternal interests. Don’t tell me you can’t clearly see Spirit Hall’s strength? In the present world, who can contend with Spirit Hall? With your strength as well as the Defense Clan’s features, as long as we walk the same road, the Defense Clan’s prospects are boundless! You can raise any conditions, as long as little brother can satisfy them, I definitely won’t decline, and even if I can’t satisfy them, there’s still Spirit Hall.”

Niu Gao’s temper finally couldn’t be suppressed, fiercely slapping the table, standing up, angrily saying:

“Huyan Zhen, when did you become such a loyal dog to Spirit Hall? If you want to lick Spirit Hall’s ass, that’s your matter, don’t bring me into it. Our Defense Clan doesn’t have the slightest interest.”

Niu Gao’s fury first made Huyan Zhen stare blankly, then his face immediately changed. No matter what was said, he was still one of the seven great sect masters, being cursed at by Niu Gao like this, where did he still have any face left? While standing up, forceful light flashed in his eyes,

“Niu Gao, I called you big brother out of respect, that’s giving you face. Don’t tell me you didn’t see the fall of the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School and the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan? Do you believe your Defense Clan is stronger than them?”

Niu Gao’s voice was called:

“Better a broken jade than an intact roof tile. Even if the Clear Sky School let our four single attribute clans down back then, no matter what is said, we still relied on the Clear Sky School to grow. We separated from them, but it’s still impossible to cooperate with Spirit Hall. I, Niu Gao, won’t be the dog of Spirit Hall. If you have the skill, you come destroy us, but don’t mouthfart in front of me.”

Huyan Zhen’s face fell like water, a pair of big eyes glinting ominously,

“Saying so, you won’t give me face?”

Niu Gao snorted coldly, imposing manner flourishing all over his body. Equally Spirit Douluo, even if his strength was inferior to Huyan Zhen, in terms of defense, he was even above Diamond Mammoth Spirit Huyan Zhen, only his attack fell far short.

Tai Tan also slowly stood up to the side, equally overbearing imposing manner erupting from him. In spirit power, he wasn’t inferior to Huyan Zhen. Just that his spirit’s innate talents were lacking.

In front of the simultaneous pressure of two great Spirit Douluo, even Huyan Zhen’s imposing body couldn’t help swaying a moment. Those four old men who came with him quickly stood behind him,

instantly, heavy imposing manner immediately counterattacked. Those four elders were unexpectedly all Spirit Sage level experts, each with strength surpassing the seventieth rank.

Niu Gao disdainfully curled his lip,

“Huyan Zhen. If you want to deal with me, I advise you to first bring along the Elephant Armored School’s army, relying on the few of you, still seems insufficient.”

Huyan Zhen was inwardly gloomy. Before coming, he by far hadn’t expected Great Strength God Tai Tan to be here, otherwise he and the subordinates he brought would have been enough to suppress the Defense Clan. Even though their imposing manner wasn’t weaker than Niu Gao’s side, this was still the Defense Clan’s territory, and it would be very difficult to get the outcome he desired.

Malicious light flashing in his eyes, Huyan Zhen coldly said:

“Fine. Niu Gao, our blue mountains don’t change. As green water flows, I’m sure we’ll meet again. I hope you’ll still be able to speak to me with such confidence when we meet next.”

Finished speaking, Huyan Zhen turned and brought his four clansmen away.

Along with the departure of the Elephant Armored School’s five people, Niu Gao and Tai Tan’s chilling demeanors gradually faded. Niu Gao’s face had already turned extremely unsightly. Fiercely swinging a hand, with a loud explosion, the wooden table next to him turned to splinters.

“I’ve always hidden in such a remote place as Rising Dragon City, but they still won’t let us off. Those Spirit Hall bastards, what are they all up to?”

Tang San spoke up,

“It’s deterrence. Every person with eyes knows who was behind what happened to the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School and the Blue Lightning Tyrant Dragon Clan. But, who can do anything about them? Spirit Hall also paid an enormous price to attack these two

great sects, and from their point of view, there actually aren't that many advantages. But what's important is the deterring effect. The Clear Sky School is sealed, the other two of the upper three sects destroyed. Spirit Hall's intention is to tell everyone that there is none who can oppose them. Even if doing so raises the vigilance of the two great empires. However, Spirit Hall's own strength has also already matured. With so many kingdoms and duchies as their puppets, they wouldn't even fear an actual war. Under the effect of such deterrence, some small sects that originally intended to keep watch and wait basically don't have any choice, and can only attach themselves to Spirit Hall to exist. Like this, as long as Spirit Hall's seven great sects reselection assembly ends smoothly in one year, the seven great sects will all be under their control. Then, the Continent will perhaps really be the world of Spirit Hall in the future."

Tang San's current mood was very calm, clearly analysing the situation,

"How many are like senior Niu, fearless of force? Very, very few. When the seven great sect struggle ends, Spirit Hall will no longer be low key, they're bound to stand in front to challenge the two great empires. Even to the extent that they will take the initiative to invade. With the number of powers held by Spirit Hall, if there's war, the two great empires will inevitably be at a disadvantage."

Saying so, Tang San changed the subject,

"I want to establish the Tang Sect, besides my own selfish motives, is in the hopes of as far as possible stopping such a situation from appearing. Even though there are a lot of high level Spirit Masters in the world, the absolute majority are still low level Spirit Masters. Spirit Hall controls tens of thousands of low level Spirit Masters, so the greatest threat to the two great empires is as a mob. That's an almost unparalleled army. You've seen our Tang Sect's hidden weapons. If we mass produced them, providing enough to the two imperial governments, at least the two great empires would still have the strength to fight on the true battlefield. Spirit Hall is after all a religious organisation, and the two great empires haven't existed for just a day or two. Who will win and who will lose is still very difficult to tell. Even though I know senior can't forget about the Clear Sky

School abandoning you back then, you can't deny the Clear Sky School's reputation as first under heaven. If there's a deadlock between Spirit Hall and the two great empires, do you believe the Clear Sky School wouldn't use such an opportunity?"

"I can tell you a secret. The Clear Sky School's twenty year seal hasn't been wasted. Even if there aren't a lot of people, they're all experts. There are more than six powers of the Title Douluo level. You should understand the meaning of Title Douluo with the Clear Sky Hammer spirit. As for who can obtain the final victory with the Continent in chaos, I believe the Clear Sky School's existence will be an enormous influence. If our plan can succeed, then our Tang Sect's influence absolutely won't be less than the Clear Sky School. I can guarantee senior in advance, the Tang Sect will never be incorporated into the Clear Sky School. Tang Sect is Tang Sect. Independent of any Spirit Master groups. We only gather together, produce hidden weapons. A group defending our autonomy. So much that we won't even be a Spirit Master sect. Senior Niu Gao, junior sincerely invites you to join the Tang Sect. The Tang Sect absolutely won't restrict the Defense Clan, all the Defense Clan clansmen will still be under your control. If the time comes that you believe the Tang Sect doesn't suit you, then you can lead the Defense Clan to depart at any time."

"I won't hide it from you, right now only the Strength Clan has joined the Tang Sect, as well as me, Fatty as well as two other comrades. Even if you can't trust me, don't tell me you can't trust senior Tai Tan?"

Just when Tang San started to speak, his words had drawn Niu Gao's interest. Thoroughly analysing, using true words as invitation, without many promises, but each of his words sounded very true to Niu Gao's ears.

This was all the capability Tang San had learned from his aunt in the Moon Pavilion. That year might have seemed a waste, but in fact, Tang San had learned a lot of principles for dealing with people from there. Tang Yue-Hua always said that strength wasn't everything in the current world. Wielding existing strength, and further adding the ability to handle people, that was a true power.

Tai Tan also listened carefully to Tang San's words, the smile on his face gradually growing stronger. He was of course very familiar with Niu Gao's character, and Tang San's choice of timing to speak was just perfect. Even though Niu Gao had shown a strong front to Huan Zhen, that was only because Huan Zhen had offended his bottom line. As a clan chief, would he really not care about the survival of the clan? The answer was inevitably negative.

Niu Gao's expression was somewhat uncertain, studying Tang San for a long time without speaking. Right now not just they were in the great hall. Ma Hongjun, Tai Long, Niu Ben were also here. Niu Ben now understood Tang San's true purpose in coming here. Hearing him speak, he also simultaneously sank into contemplation, clearly weighing the pros and cons.

Tai Tan patted Niu Gao's shoulder,

"Before coming here, I already had Tai Nuo start buying up some surrounding properties. Preparing to expand the mansion. I remember in those days I still had your help when building the mansion, this time I will perhaps still have to trouble you. Us brothers have always been separated in two different empires these years, I truly cherish the memories of those days when we every day drank wine and ate meat. I'm not urging you to join the Tang Sect because of that, only, old rhino, do you want to make this gamble along with me? If our gamble fails, big brother can absolutely tell you, my Strength Clan will definitely be ruined before your Defense Clan."

Niu Gao looked at Tai Tan, their eyes meeting, and he sharply waved his hand,

"Spirit Hall's bullying is intolerable, fine, old orangutan, I'll follow you for this bet. Tang San, remember your words today, no matter what happens in the future, us and the Clear Sky School will never have any relation again. This is our bottom line. As long as what you do is to everyone's benefit, my Defense Clan will support you unconditionally."

Tang San wore a smile, watching Niu Gao with a steadfast gaze, without saying anything, only forcefully nodding to him.

Tai Tan laughed out loud, spreading both arms to Niu Gao,

“My good brother, welcome to the Tang Sect.”

Niu Gao also smiled simultaneously, forcefully hugging Tai Tan,

“Let’s go, we’ll continue drinking. Just now we let that old brat Huyan Zhen bother us, we can’t let that ruin our mood.”

Once again seated at the table, the atmosphere had clearly changed. The slight hostility hidden in Niu Gao’s gaze as he looked at Tang San had vanished completely. He was always an optimistic person. Since it was already decided, he wouldn’t regret it.

The wine made three rounds, and Tai Tan slightly intoxicated said:

“Old rhino, do you know why I promised young master to establish this Tang Sect with him?”

“Why?”

Niu Gao’s capacity for wine was about the same as Tai Tan’s. Tai Tan was somewhat drunk, naturally he wasn’t much better of.

Tai Tan said:

“Besides those hidden weapons making my heart beat, even more important is the young master. Young master’s twenty, how can he possess his present accomplishments? Now I can tell you too. Five years ago. Do you know about the Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament?”

Niu Gao said:

“I seem to have heard of it. Our clan also have some children that followed some academy to participate, their achievement wasn’t up to much.”

Tai Tan laughed out loud, saying:

“In this you aren’t my equal. Tai Long, this brat, was a member of the final champion team.”

“What did you say?”

Niu Gao was inwardly alarmed, even his tipsy feeling retreating a bit, looking at Tai Tan;

“This brat was so outstanding?”

The status of the Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament was fairly high in the Spirit Master world. It was the best stage for the young generation of Spirit Masters to reveal themselves. Each academy member that could obtain an outstanding achievement were all targets that great sects tripped over each other to recruit.

Niu Ben forcefully clapped Tai Long’s shoulder,

“All right, kid! Uncle didn’t see you were so tremendous. I heard that the Continental Advanced Spirit Master Academy Elite Tournament that time was the most epic in the last several decades. The level of the competing Spirit Masters were all considerably high. Especially Spirit Hall, who sent that trio of youths called the Golden Generation to lead their team. But in the end they were defeated by a dark horse. I didn’t expect you would be a member of that team. let me think, ah, right, it was called something like Shrek Academy, yes?”

Tai Long somewhat embarrassed said:

“Uncle Niu Ben, don’t exaggerate. Even if I counted as a member of the team, I was only a substitute. In the last key competition, I didn’t take the field. The reason our team could defeat Spirit Hall’s Golden Generation, is all young master’s contribution. Young master was not only the vice captain, but also the soul of the team. In the final battle, it was he who single handedly blocked the spirit fusion ability of the Golden Generation siblings, creating the conditions for victory. Finally pulling strongly against the tide, making us the champions. At that time young master’s spirit power was forty something ranked, Spirit Hall’s Golden Generation all over fiftieth ranked.”

Speaking of that battle back then, Tai Long couldn’t help revealing an intense worship in his eyes. He had personally seen the entire fight, and even now he couldn’t forget Tang San’s heroism on the field.

Ma Hongjun wasn’t as calm as Tang San. Grinning, he said:

"I was also in the main force! Tai Long, why don't you praise me."

Tai Long laughed out loud, saying:

"Yes, Fatty was also in the main force. He was also stronger than me. Your spirit is the phoenix."

When father and son Niu Gao and Niu Ben heard Tai Long's words, they couldn't keep their expressions from changing somewhat. Tai Tan smiled:

"Now you understand my meaning. Young master's excellence even makes Spirit Hall jealous. His future prospects are boundless."

Niu Gao frowned, saying:

"The win will definitely break the tallest tree, don't tell me Spirit Hall wouldn't have such thoughts?"

Tai Tan grinned:

"No need to worry about that. First not speaking about whether Spirit Hall could find young master, along with young master's strength rising, he had one spirit awaken a second time, leading to huge changes in his appearance and demeanor. People who knew him before don't recognize him when face to face. Moreover, in Heaven Dou City, even if someone wished young master harm, that still wouldn't be so easy. Our Tang Sect is established in secret, and also won't go join the struggles between Spirit Master sects, we're only secretly building our strength."

Niu Gao said:

"No matter what is said, afterwards we're also a grasshopper on a string. After this gathering is over, I'll go eat your food and drink your wine. *Humph humph.*"

Tai Tan smiled:

"As you wish, there's enough. Anyway, hereafter the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School will support the Tang Sect financially. With the skill you eat until they're poor. Their sect is broken, but their wealth hasn't waned. That is indeed the richest sect under heaven."

Niu Gao stared blankly a moment,

“I feel more and more like this Tang Sect of ours has some prospects. Since it’s like this, it would be better if we also pulled the Speed Clan along. Their days have been very sad. Always receiving our material assistance. Since the finances aren’t a problem, and Tang San can even talk me into it, I think the old whitebird wouldn’t be much of a problem.”

Tai Tan smiled:

“That fellow most dislikes other people calling him old bird, be careful about his temper! Only, we can consider how to lure him. The two of us are both in the Tang Sect, with him it’ll be even more lively.”

The two wicked old men immediately began to excitedly talk in low voices. Tang San could naturally hear what they said, and for a moment he couldn’t help feeling a chill down his back. So when people got old, they wouldn’t be disturbed by sinister thoughts. Of course, their purpose was still benevolent.

Judging by how it had gone so far, everything was better than anticipated. Only one area made somewhat worried, the Breaking Clan. Judging by how Tai Tan and Niu Gao hadn’t mentioned them at all, clearly that wasn’t an easily convinced clansman. Due to losing more than half the clan from Spirit Hall’s attack, their hatred for the Clear Sky Clan was naturally the strongest. Moreover, they were also the one clan of the four single attribute clans that made the best living. What ways could move them in the end?

.....

Next evening, still one day from the time of the four single attribute clan gathering, the Speed Clan arrived.

The Speed Clan fully brought more than ten people. Niu Gai and Tai Tan went out to meet them together, and Tang San, Ma Hongjun and Tai Long also followed behind.

Counting carefully, Tang San discovered that the Speed Clan had brought altogether twelve people, the old man leading them was slim, but seemed extremely well proportioned. His long hair hung

across his back, but it was already snow white. If not for his face being as rosy as an infant's, he would seem even older than Tai Tan and Niu Gao. But Tang San knew that he was really a year younger than Niu Gao. His spirit power was also around the eighty first or eight second rank. That was also the Speed Clan's clan chief, Bai He^[1].

Actually, the Speed Clan's spirit wasn't a crane, crane's didn't fly fast. The reason why they walked the road of speed was also greatly related to their spirit. Because the Speed Clan's spirit was a bird with the fastest flight speed, called the Needle-Tailed Swift^[2]. It was possessing such a spirit that led the Speed Clan down their cultivation route.

Following next to Bai He was a young woman about the same age as Tang San and Ma Hongjun. The young woman was tall and well proportioned, extremely beautiful. Even if she was a bit thin, her appearance was only slightly inferior to Xiao Wu, Zhu Zhuqing and the others. The expression in her eyes seemed somewhat proud, holding Bai He's arm, her beautiful eyes looked around hopefully, seemingly very interested in everything around her.

Ma Hongjun took one look at this young woman, and his eyes immediately straightened. He never had any resistance to beautiful women. Secretly swallowing, he stared fixedly at her without blinking, as if about to eat her.

The young woman very soon sensed Ma Hongjun's gaze, shooting him a look. Turning her head, her beautiful eyes just fell on Tang San. However, what she looked at wasn't Tang San's handsome appearance, but rather Xiao Wu in his arms. Xiao Wu's fur shone like silver, even starting to turn gold at the roots, further with the power she spread, her chubby body seeming extremely cute, she was a fatal killing blow at least to young women.

"Haha, old orangutan, I knew you'd definitely be here long ago. It really is so."

Bai He laughed loudly and went to greet them, the three elders forcefully hugging.

However, Bai He clearly felt that Tai Tan and Niu Gao's expressions were somewhat awkward. It seemed as if they meticulously kept their distance, and when hugging he didn't get the feeling they were honestly happy.

Niu Gao looked at the young woman next to Bai He,

"Xiangxiang came too. Let's go, we'll speak inside."

Bai He's subordinates naturally had the Defense Clan's people's arrangements, and he brought the charming young woman to follow Tai Tan and Niu Gao into the drawing room with doubts in his heart.

"Tea."

Niu Gao shouted, his expression appearing a bit more unsightly. To the side, Tai Tan also hung his head without speaking.

Bai He frowned,

"What's up with you two old fellows? Such anxious expressions."

Niu Gao smiled bitterly:

"You only just arrived, we shouldn't speak to you about it. But you also know I can't keep words to myself. Old whitebird, in the future we might not be able to help you again."

Bai He's heart shivered, him bringing so many people this time wasn't just for prestige. The Speed Clan's days really weren't easy. The entire clan, from clan chief Bai He and down, everyone were proud, they always believed their Swift Spirit was extremely noble. That's why they never agreed to join any sect. Coming this time, he originally planned to accept some assistance of the other three clans, supporting his clan. This had also become a tradition among the four clans.

"What's happened?"

Bai He's heart steadied a bit, and asked.

Niu Gao sighed, saying:

"You know the Elephant Armored School. Yesterday Huyan Zhen

that fellow came. He came to enlist my clan.”

Bai He said:

“On behalf of Spirit hall?”

Right now he couldn't even pay attention to Niu Gao calling him that name he disliked.

Noi Gao nodded wordlessly.

Bai He's brows wrinkled,

“Old rhino, you wouldn't have agreed?”

Niu Gao snorted coldly,

“How would that be possible? Even if my Defense Clan was destroyed, I still wouldn't be Spirit Hall's dog. Only, I refused them, I'm afraid the Elephant Armored School will retaliate. As for when, nobody can say. Therefore, I've decided to migrate the clan. Leave for Heaven Dou City, mixing with old orangutan. You also know, going to the old orangutan's place, reopening business there, raising income, it'll take time. Even the Strength Clan's support is like a cup of water on a burning cart of firewood for our two clans. Not enough. Therefore, this time, I'm afraid we won't be able to support you.”

Bai He's expression clearly seemed a bit artificial. Shaking his head, he said:

“It doesn't matter. Over these years, without your support, I'm afraid our Speed Clan would long since have ceased to exist. Now that your Defense Clan is in difficulties, I'm already very sorry I can't help. How can I still ask for resources. I'll think of a way myself.”

The atmosphere in the drawing room became somewhat depressed, the three clan chiefs didn't speak up again. Niu Gao and Tai Tan glanced at each other and both saw the smile at the corners of each others' eyes, and hastily rearranged their own facial expressions.

After a long silence, Tai Tan said to Bai He:

“Old whitebird, I'll introduce you.”

It was Tang San's turn.

Bai He looked somewhat blankly at Tai Tan. Tai Tan indicated Tang San to the side, saying:

"This little brother is a swiftly rising genius of a generation in the world of forging. He's made some hidden weapons, I've taken a look, and they seem very suitable for your Speed Clan. I let him follow me so you could take a look. Little San."

Tang San petted the already fast asleep Xiao Wu, first putting her inside the Wishful Hundred Treasure Purse, then once again pulled out the heroic workhorse Godly Zhuge Crossbow from his chest, walking over and handing it to Bai He with both hands.

Bai He took it with several questions, and the eyes of the young woman at his side were immediately filled with curiosity as she looked at the unassuming black box.

Tang San didn't wait for him to ask, taking the initiative to say:

"This thing is called Godly Zhuge Crossbow, forty eight crossbow bolts are hidden inside, including the crossbow bolts, all of it is made from refined iron. Each time the mechanism on top is wound, it can instantly shoot sixteen crossbow bolts from the holes in front, tyrannically powerful. It can break defensive spirit abilities of the fortieth rank and below, and the crossbow bolts are furthermore poisoned. If used to sneak attack before the opponent raises his defense, even fiftieth and sixtieth level Spirit Masters will find it very difficult to escape. If matched with your noble clan's speed, it's might can inevitably increase enormously."

Bai He was shocked,

"You're saying this thing can break defensive spirit abilities of the fortieth rank and below? You're certain?"

Sitting at the head, Niu Gao said:

"I already tried it last night. What he says isn't a bit exaggerated. I heard that this thing is still only the basic version Godly Zhuge Crossbow, and it can still be provided with even stronger crossbow

bolts. What do you think of that?"

Notes

1. Bai He - (白鹤) "White Crane", thus all the references to white birds.
2. Needle-Tailed Swift - (尖尾雨燕) literally "needle tailed rain swallow" or white-throated needle tail, while other raptors might beat them in diving speed, the needle-tailed swift holds the record in vertical flight.

175 – Ghost Shadow Perplexing Steps' Pure Speed Battle

Tang San said:

“The improved Godly Zhuge Crossbow, since the crossbow bolts aren't the same, will also have different power. The most powerful can threaten a sixtieth rank Spirit Master going all out on defense. The most ordinary is still a level of power above this basic one. Enough to make forty fifth ranked Spirit Masters hateful. Split into twelve types of crossbow bolts, they're each Bone Piercing Bolts, Thunderflame Bolts, Armor Breaking Bolts, Edge Cracking Bolts, Devil Suppressing Bolts, Overlord Bolts, Deep Yin Bolts, Dragon Cutting Bolts, Extinguishing Lust Bolts, Dragon Beard Bolts, Meteor Destruction Bolts and Seven Killing Bolts. The most difficult to deal with among them are the Meteor Destruction Bolts and the Seven Killing Bolts. Just that since these crossbow bolts require extremely fine craftsmanship and uncommon materials, the cost is high.”

While speaking, Tang San took back the Godly Zhuge Crossbow, swiftly winding the mechanism,

“Senior please watch.”

While speaking, Tang San raised his hand and fired. Along with a series of sonorous cracks, sixteen streaks of shadow entered the ground in an instant. Bai He didn't clearly see how they shot, but the granite floor already had sixteen small holes.

Bai He couldn't help asking:

“How large is the killing range for this thing?”

Tang San said:

“The greatest killing power is guaranteed within fifty meters, further than that, the power gradually weakens.”

Drawing a deep breath, Bai He was unable to conceal the excitement revealed by his eyes,

“Good, I’ll buy this thing. How much? I want two hundred.”

Tang San smiled slightly,

“Not expensive, one hundred fifty gold spirit coins.”

Bai He pondered, then said,

“Can’t you make it a bit cheaper?”

Even though his character wasn’t willing to haggle, one hundred fifty gold spirit coins wasn’t a small sum to the entire Speed Clan.

Bai He never allowed his junior clansmen to go draw the Spirit Hall stipend. The level of poverty for the whole clan ranked among the top in the Spirit Master world.

Tang San pondered, then said:

“Since you’re friends with senior Tai Tan, I’ll give you a favorable price. One hundred twenty gold spirit coins. I can’t go lower.”

Bai He, slightly relieved, said:

“Good, then I’ll buy.”

While speaking, swiping the spirit tool bracelet on his wrist, he took out a pouch of precious and heavy gold spirit coins.

“Here is one hundred gold spirit coins. I’ll give you the remaining twenty after the Breaking Clan has arrived.”

Tang San didn’t accept it, somewhat awkwardly saying:

“Senior, you seem to have misunderstood. The one hundred twenty gold spirit coins I mentioned was for one. If you want two hundred Godly Zhuge Crossbows, then the price should be twenty four thousand gold spirit coins.”

“What did you say?”

Bai He shot to his feet. His face was already deep red. Originally he

had suffered because of the poverty of his clan, but now hearing Tang San mention such an astronomical sum, the pride in his heart immediately turned into anger,

“Are you playing with me?”

An almost severe pressure immediately gushed out from within his body. Even if he cultivated in the direction of speed, no matter what was said, he was still a Spirit Douluo level power.

The young woman sitting by Bai He’s side also stood up with him, glaring at Tang San:

“Why don’t you go robbing?”

Tang San smiled calmly, as if he didn’t feel the pressure Bai He released. Equally being Spirit Douluo, the pressure Bai He gave him was a lot less than Niu Gao,

“Be calm, senior. When our Tang Sect does business, it’s absolutely without cheating either old nor young. One hundred twenty gold spirit coins is cheap rather than expensive. When I sell to the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School, the price is closer to one hundred eighty gold spirit coin for one. You already have completely favorable treatment. Don’t forget that my Godly Zhuge Crossbow is made from refined iron, according to the price you wish for, wouldn’t that be less than one gold spirit coin for each Godly Zhuge Crossbow? The manufacturing cost for the refined iron is more than this. Even more so the craftsmanship and technique, I dare say it’s unique and unmatched on the Douluo Continent. Before senior gets angry, please think clearly.”

While speaking, Tang San raised a foot and lightly stomped on the ground. Faint white light stealthily rushed from him. Bai He clearly felt the pressure he released being forcefully cut apart. And on the ground, sixteen black shadows shot up, caught in Tang San’s hand, then slowly and calmly returned the sixteen crossbow bolts to the Godly Zhuge Crossbow.

Tai Tan said:

“Bai He, I can prove this on his behalf. Selling this Godly Zhuge

Crossbow for one hundred twenty gold spirit coins absolutely isn't expensive. As far as I know, the Seven Treasure Glazed Tile School is the Tang Sect's long term client. This price for you is already very low. My meaning is, if you're interested, you can buy one for self protection."

Bai He disappointedly sat back in his seat,

"This thing is good, but what use is only one?"

Just as Niu Gao said, the greatest problem perplexing the Speed Clan was attack power. If they had sufficiently formidable attack power, then even going to specially hunt spirit beasts was enough to support the clan. The appearance of the Godly Zhuge Crossbow undoubtedly made Bai He's eyes brighten, but, to him, this price really was a bit too difficult to accept.

Tang San smiled slightly, saying:

"Senior Bai he, trading can't become charity. Since today is our first meeting, I'll present this Godly Zhuge Crossbow to you as a gift."

While speaking, he once again held the Godly Zhuge Crossbow in front of Bai He.

Bai He snorted,

"You want to give it to me? No unjustly deserved rewards. I can't take it."

In his heart, one hundred twenty gold spirit coins was no small figure. Accepting the help of the four single attribute clans was one thing, accepting the gifts of other people was definitely something else. If he wasn't so proud, the Speed Clan wouldn't have reached its current state.

Tang San said:

"Then how about this. This young lady should be senior's granddaughter. Junior has always been extremely interested in speed. I don't know whether me and this young miss could compete in speed. If I win, senior gives me the one hundred gold spirit coins

you hold. If I lose, this Godly Zhuge Crossbow will be regarded as the stakes for senior. How about it?"

Hearing this, Bai He's heart immediately thumped. Speed was the greatest advantage of their clan. Even if the aura Tang San revealed just now wasn't weak, he still absolutely didn't believe his granddaughter would lose to him. Moreover, he assumed that Tang San himself was planning to give this thing to him, and this was just finding a justification. Even though Bai He had a very proper face, the lure of the Godly Zhuge Crossbow was just too large. He couldn't help subconsciously looking to his granddaughter.

That beautiful young woman directly leapt up from her chair, in practically an a flash, she stood at the center of the hall,

"Fine, I'll compete with you."

Tang San put the Godly Zhuge Crossbow aside, strolling over in front of that young woman. Right now, looking face to face, he couldn't help praising her inwardly. This young woman really was beautiful. Especially her harmonized figure. Only, he still only appreciated her. In his heart, besides Xiao Wu, there was no longer room for a second woman.

The young woman haughtily faced up, looking at the half a head taller than her Tang San,

"How do you want to compete?"

Tang San smiled slightly, saying:

"I have always admired the speed of the Speed Clan, we'll do it according to nimbleness. We'll be within this drawing room. As long as you can touch me anywhere, it will be your win. The time is one stick of incense. Conversely, I win."

The young woman said without the slightest hesitation:

"Fine, then light the incense."

Tang San's Twenty Four Moonlit Bridges had everything. Casually stroking it, pulling out one stick of incense, he threw it to Ma

Hongjun. Ma Hongjun flicked it with a finger, immediately lighting the incense, holding it in his hand.

“Tang Sect’s Tang San, please guide me.”

Tang San gracefully made an inviting gesture, immediately focusing his entire attention.

The young woman disdainfully curled her lip. She didn’t believe Tang San could compare to her in speed,

“Speed Clan’s Bai Chenxiang^[1]. I will begin?”

“Please.”

Tang San’s words had just fallen when Bai Chenxiang was already in motion. Even with Tang San’s eyesight, he only caught a smear of shadow in front, before Bai Chenxiang had already reached him.

However, he was also long since prepared. At the same time as he said ‘please’, his feet shifted slightly, moving half a chi to the left.

Bai Chenxiang was strangely fast, but exactly because she was fast, her momentum was naturally also powerful. Immediately charging past Tang San’s side, she missed him by a hair’s breadth.

Right now, azure color already burst from his eyes within a purple golden luster. His back was also cold. The Speed Clan’s speed was even scarier than he had imagined. He didn’t dare be careless, directly using Purple Demon Eye, his spiritual force also spreading out.

Bai Chenxiang charged and leapt dexterously, the tips of her toes lightly poking a pillar within the drawing room, using even greater speed than before to return. One charge and one return, added together, took only the blink of an eye.

Tang San was now extremely careful, Purple Demon Eye targeting Bai Chenxiang, using Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step, his whole body immediately turning illusory.

Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step absolutely wasn’t the fastest of footwork, but it was absolutely the most profoundly nimble. Even if

Bai Chenxiang was fast, Tang San's movements were still always outside of her expectations, and she struck empty air again.

Bai Chenxiang naturally wouldn't give up, chasing Tang San with all her strength. Tang San just didn't look at her, relying on spiritual force to track her, minding his own business and using Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step within a narrow range. The reason why he reacted as he did today, was his previous consultation with Tai Tan and Niu Gao. The most crucial of this was whether he could convince the other party.

Speed was where the Speed Clan was best, and just like Tang San defeated Niu Gao in defense, if he could defeat the Speed Clan in speed, everything would become a lot easier.

The choice to compete within the drawing room was also considered Tang San's painstaking efforts. Bai Chenxiang in front of him wasn't difficult to deal with, the difficult one was the Speed Clan chief, Bai He. Tang San knew that even if he added his Blue Silver Emperor right leg bone, it was still impossible for him to compete with Bai He in straight line speed. Therefore, he could only choose agility. There were no Spirit Masters faster than the Speed Clan in a straight line, but linear speed and flexibility, after all, didn't completely overlap. Tang San would exploit his Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step to conquer the other side.

Just at the start, Bai He's expression was still completely relaxed, but along with Tang San successively dodging Bai Chenxiang several times, his face gradually fell.

Even though Bai Chenxiang still hadn't used her spirit yet, in fact, speed was still something every Speed Clan member had in their bones, they were extremely fast even without the aid of spirits.

The burn speed of the incense was a bit faster than ordinarily, this was of course the effect of Ma Hongjun's phoenix flame, just that nobody paid attention to him right now. Even if the incense burned even faster right now, the Speed Clan's speed was still enough to carry out multiple lunges in this time.

Bai He gradually saw some clues. Tang San really wasn't faster than

his granddaughter, but that footwork of his was mysterious, and he could always dodge Bai Chenxiang's lunges at the edge of danger just by relying on this profound footwork.

The stick of incense had already burned close to half, and Bai Chenxiang was still unable to deal with Tang San without using her spirit. With a low shout, the hair on her head grew, her arms stretched out, her spirit releasing in a moment.

Two yellow, two purple, four spirit rings appeared around her tall delicate body. Twenty years old, fortieth ranked Spirit Ancestor, her strength was quite uncommon. Moreover, she still had an ideal spirit ring configuration. Even though this girl wasn't old, she was still the pride of Bai He's Speed Clan. Bai He firmly believed that his granddaughter would have a chance to attack the Title Douluo level in the future.

Abruptly putting her spirit to use, Bai Chenxiang shot out like lightning, both feet gathering as if stuck together, each of her two arms turned into wings, flapping once, and along with her third spirit ring flaring, she flew in the air. Her speed suddenly increased, and she lunged towards Tang San.

This third spirit ring was undoubtedly her spirit ability. Under the effect of the flying ability, some tables and chairs and other small objects on the floor could no longer block her. Further adding the increase in speed, the pressure she gave Tang San instantly increased substantially.

Immediately afterward, Bai Chenxiang's first spirit ring was also used. Behind her four broken shadows appeared simultaneously, and they were moreover extremely distinct shadows. Looking exactly like her, as she flew horizontally, it seemed as if five Bai Chenxiangs charged Tang San simultaneously. The area covered immediately increased substantially. Despite being fully aware that four of those five were illusions, such a sudden appearance would still very easily cause optical illusions.

Unfortunately, Bai Chenxiang had encountered Tang San. The light of the Purple Demon Light pulsed, and practically none of the shadows had any meaning against his powerful eyesight. Tang San's pace

suddenly accelerated, the Blue Silver Emperor right leg bone displaying its effect. Even though Tang San didn't use speed boost abilities, along with his spirit power infusing, his speed still rose, dodging between the illusions in the drawing room just like smoke.

Despite Bai Chenxiang's flight speed being incomparably fast with her spirit released, and moreover with her extremely agile lunges in the air, she was still unable to catch Tang San's silhouette. The two chased and dodged like this, and time unceasingly drained away.

Bai Chenxiang was filled with an unreconciled feeling. She could clearly see that even after Tang San accelerated, his speed still couldn't compare to her. But that strange footwork caused great problems for her judgement, it always seemed like she would catch him, but he still dodged as if he anticipated it.

Right now, besides Bai He, everyone watching the fight, even Tai Tan and Niu Gao, were also stunned. Six silhouettes constantly flickered within the hall, and it was already very difficult to clearly see the movements of both sides. Especially Bai Chenxiang. Her movements were too fast. It seemed she lunged directly, but suddenly turned nimbly, her body would twist beautifully in midair, instantly changing direction. But Tang San's reaction couldn't be called slow either, no matter how fast Bai Chenxiang's Needle-Tailed Swift flying speed was, he could always dodge in time, not letting Bai Chenxiang touch him.

Bai He's brows wrinkled sharply. he knew that his granddaughter was already using her full strength, and that their side had lost this battle. Bai Chenxiang's fourth spirit ability was only advantageous in straight line flight, no use in such a narrow space. It seemed that if it continued, it was impossible for his granddaughter to catch that youth called Tang San no matter what. Lowering his head, he looked somewhat grudgingly at the coin purse in his hand, inwardly thinking, *'don't tell me Heaven really wants wants to set itself against my Speed Clan?'* People can't be greedy? With greed, even this final bit of coin couldn't be preserved. In the next days, how would the Speed Clan continue? Would they really have to go seek shelter from a sect? Even if they wanted to find shelter, in the present world, the upper three sects no longer existed, when all was said

and done, how many sects still had enough strength to stay unrelated to Spirit Hall?

“Time.”

Ma Hongjun shouted, the incense in his hand finally ended.

The two figures suddenly halted. Tang San still had a smile, his graceful temperament unvarying, leisurely straightening the clothes that were in disorder from the fast movements.

Bai Chenxiang couldn't be as leisurely as him. Because of her gasping for breath, her small chest heaved, glaring fiercely at Fatty,

“Shameless, how could one stick of incense be so short?”

Ma Hongjun grinned,

“With another stick of incense, you still couldn't have touched one hair on my third brother's head! The result would still be the same.”

Bai Chenxiang still wanted to say something else, but was stopped by Bai He. With movements nobody saw clearly, he had already arrived next to Bai Chenxiang. He threw the purse of gold spirit coins in his hand to Tang San,”

He's right. You couldn't touch Tang San. We've lost. If you agree to bet you must accept to lose.”

Tang San caught the coins, but didn't put it away,

“Miss Bai, you let me win.”

Bai Chenxiang looked at Tang San with an unreconciled expression,

“What let you win, if you have the skill, we'll compete in long distance speed.”

Tang San smiled, and Bai He shouted:

“Enough. If people compete in speed with our Speed Clan, they should naturally choose the manner. It's your own cultivation that's imperfect, and you still dare show off? Defeat isn't dreadful, but you have to find the cause for your defeat.”

Bai Chenxiang felt somewhat wronged, but was clearly very fearful of her grandfather. She fiercely glared at Tang San, then furiously walked towards her own previous seat. When she passed by Ma Hongjun, she 'very carelessly' stepped on Ma Hongjun's foot, eliciting a grimace of pain, but no complaints. This fellow was always extremely forgiving towards beautiful women.

Bai He looked at Tang San,

"Your footwork is very marvellous. We are convinced in heart and word of our loss."

Tang San bowed slightly, saying:

"It's junior's tricks. In pure speed, nobody can compare to your noble clan."

Bai He's eyes displayed a trace of darkness,

"What use is that? Of the four single attribute clans, our Speed Clan is the most useless."

Tang San said:

"You can't say that, it's just that your noble clan doesn't have a suitable space to use. Senior, it would be better if we competed again. You've also seen that our Tang Sect has enough hidden weapons to arm your clan. Moreover, we aren't a Spirit Master sect in the traditional sense. If senior loses, I hope senior can join the Tang Sect. The Tang Sect will completely provide your noble clan with equipment as well as all necessary resources. Furthermore, we won't issue any requests in the forms of commands to your noble clan. What do you think?"

The light in Bai He's eyes suddenly grew almost severe, just like two sharp blades thrusting straight at Tang San's eyes. But, he still confronted Purple Demon Eye. Wouldn't making anything out from Tang San's eyes be easier said than done?

"Young man, you've got a big appetite!"

Bai He said coldly.

Niu Gao sitting in the main seat snorted disdainfully,

“Just you alone still dare compete with old whitebird in speed. Young people being a bit proud is nothing, but if it comes to arrogance, you can only suffer the painful consequences.”

Tang San smile was as light as a breeze,

“From the start, junior didn’t think about winning. I only want to try it once. Just like the possibility of the Speed Clan joining our Tang Sect is extremely small. Senior Bai He, if I lose, we’ll provide your noble clan with a full complement of hidden weapons. Everyone will have equipment worth five hundred gold spirit coins. Including one Godly Zhuge Crossbow, two Silent Sleeve Darts, one Tight Back Head Bowed Crossbow, one Sand Projecting Shadow, as well as two Leg Crossbows.”

Hearing Tang San’s words, even Tai Tan and Niu Gao couldn’t help secretly being speechless. Niu Gao’s words were clearly a concealed provocation, but they originally hadn’t even planned for Tang San to actually win against Bai He in a competition of speed. If Tang San lost, since everyone were friends, they could pull close the relationship between both sides by relying on the attraction of the Tang Sect hidden weapons. But they hadn’t expected Tang San to actually toss out such large bait. If they lost here, the price would be a bit much. The Speed Clan still had more than two hundred people, a full set of five hundred gold spirit coins of equipment was definitely a hundred thousand gold spirit coins. Even to some Spirit Master sects with notable strength, this didn’t count as a small sum.

It was naturally impossible for Tang San to be sure he could win, but he still wanted to bet. Admittedly he hoped to even more directly obtained the backing of the Speed Clan, but at the same time it was also to reveal his strength one step further in front of these clan elders, to obtain even better approval. Besides, there were still a lot of secret skills Tang San hadn’t used in his previous fight with Bai Chenxiang. Facing Bai He, had at least fifty percent certainty in his success.

Even if he lost, as long as they could pull the Speed Clan into the Tang Sect later on, these hundred thousand gold spirit coins in

equipment still wouldn't be a loss. Equipping their own side, wasn't that very regular?

"Fatty. You come act as target, alright?"

Tang San looked at Ma Hongjun.

Ma Hongjun directly jumped up,

"No problem! Come."

He was just looking for an opportunity to show off in front of the beautiful woman. Eager to take on this task, he walked over to stand ten meters in front of Tang San.

"Third brother, wait for me to prepare. Those hidden weapons of yours aren't so easy to block."

While speaking, Fatty immediately released his spirit.

Along with his spirit releasing, Ma Hongjun's body immediately straightened somewhat, his hair gathering into a mohican, turning scarlet, his bare limbs displaying dazzlingly beautiful feathers, and his whole body seemed to thin a bit. What drew most attention was naturally those five spirit rings of his.

Two yellow, two purple, one black. Five rings altogether.

Even Niu Gao was secretly startled. Originally he hadn't paid this always smiling and giggling Fatty much attention, he hadn't expected him to actually also be a Spirit King level Spirit Master. From how he called Tang San third brother, he was clearly even a bit younger than Tang San.

The grandfather and granddaughter Bai He and Bai Chenxiang thought even more deeply. First putting aside Ma Hongjun's spirit rings, when he released his spirit, both of them simultaneously felt an indescribable pressure hitting them. That was a feeling that made their souls tremble, an innate fear of their spirits.

How was it possible? Their always proud expressions immediately changed greatly.

Ma Hongjun somewhat boastfully said:

“Junior is Ma Hongjun. Fifty seventh ranked power attack type Spirit King. Spirit, Fire Phoenix.”

As he spoke, his second and third spirit rings flashed simultaneously. Red hot flame suddenly soared from his body, the temperature in the entire drawing room suddenly rising sharply, a pair of wings of flame extended from his back, immediately making this originally harmless seeming Fatty filled with an oppressive might.

“Third brother, come.”

Ma Hongjun shouted to Tang San.

Tang San took out one hidden weapon after another from his Twenty Four Moonlit Bridges, at once wearing them over his clothes. With his present strength, he wouldn't ordinarily wear these hidden weapons, non mechanical hidden weapons were enough for him to use. In order to display them now, his actions weren't slow, at once installing the hidden weapons he mentioned just now, besides the Godly Zhuge Crossbow.

Raising both hands, Tang San said:

“Silent Sleeve Dart.”

Each of his arms shot a dark shadow, flashing past, reaching Ma Hongjun in the blink of an eye.

The flame on Ma Hongjun's body suddenly burned brighter. He had already prepared in advance, Phoenix Firewire shooting out, turning into a sheet of flame under his clever control and the amplification of two great spirit abilities, blocking the two sleeve darts with tyrannical impact force.

Immediately afterward, another two volleys, four sleeve darts also silently shot out. All blocked by Ma Hongjun. With a series of jingling sounds, six cooked deep red sleeve darts fell to the ground and Ma Hongjun also retreated half a step to dissolve the impact force.

Tang San pushed on his stomach,

“Sand Projecting Shadow, shoots poison mist.”

With a puffing sound, countless flying needles shot out along with poison mist. His movements didn't stop, legst shifting slightly, relying on muscular contractions, the crossbow mechanisms on his legs fired simultaneously.

Ma Hongjun's both hands swiftly drew a circle in front of his chest, spirit power jetting out. In front of the red hot phoenix flames, the poison mist naturally lost its effect, and concentrated popping sounds echoed continuously. Ma Hongjun retreated several steps in succession, and when confronted with the leg crossbows, he already had some difficulty warding them off.

Just when he had when difficulty blocked this round of hidden weapon attacks, Tang San bowed his head sharply, and with a sonorous crossbow crack, the most formidable Tight Back Head Bowed Crossbow abruptly fired, the bulky crossbow bolt shooting straight for Ma Hongjun's chest.

“Third brother, do you want me dead!”

The red light on Ma Hongjun's right arm rose sharply, the flame wings on his back abruptly expanding. With a loud explosion, his fist blasted out, relying on the flame right arm's added Phoenix Burst Attack ability to just manage to block this attack.

Tang San's entire chain of attacks was as fluent as moving clouds and flowing water. All the Spirit Masters here were experts, and could naturally sense how frightening the attack power of the hidden weapons were. Of course, they also sensed ma Hongjun's formidable strength. He seemed to be blocking in a fluster, but very clearly, these hidden weapons still weren't enough to threaten him.

Tang San then said to Bai He:

“Senior, the full set of equipment I mentioned is all here. This is the full deployment of five hundred gold spirit coins. Of course, these still don't count as my Tang Sect's most tremendous hidden weapons. Only sect disciples have the right to use those most powerful ones. Please forgive junior for being unable to provide them. You've seen

he might of these hidden weapons. I think that if the Speed Clan's clansmen were equipped with them, it would definitely have a pretty good effect. Do you wish to bet with junior on this?"

Bai He's expression changed continuously. Ma Hongjun had now already withdrawn his spirit, and the pressure naturally also vanished. Tang San and Ma Hongjun's team gave him a very great shock. Even more important was these hidden weapons, making even a proud person like him unable to keep from being greedy. He really couldn't refuse the stakes Tang San had raised, and Bai He sincerely believed that this youth in front of him couldn't escape him in a bout of speed. No matter how miraculous his footwork was, before absolute speed, its effect was still limited.

Thinking about this, Bai He lowered his voice:

"Fine, I'll bet on this fight with you. If I lose, then, I'll lead the Speed Clan to join your Tang Sect. You were brought by Tai Tan, I believe there shouldn't be any relation between you and Spirit Hall. I'll first declare that if this Tang Sect of yours and Spirit Hall has any relationship in the future, I'll immediately lead my clan to leave."

Tang San said coldly:

"There's only one possible relationship between Tang Sect and Spirit Hall, and that's their destruction. Senior, we'll begin. Within the time of one stick of incense, the conditions are the same."

While speaking, he once again threw a stick of incense to Ma Hongjun.

Bai He dodged ten meters away from Tang San, and just the instant Ma Hongjun lit the incense, he was already moving. With the fate of his clansmen in the balance, he had no choice but to do his utmost.

With this move by Bai He, Tang San learned what pure speed was. Even his Purple Demon Eye only caught a white shadow flash in front of him, before Bai He's hand was already before his eyes. In this moment, Tang San couldn't rely on Ghost Shadow Perplexing Step to dodge.

Too fast, he really arrived too quickly. Since Tang San obtained

Purple Demon Eye, this was the first time he felt his eyesight couldn't keep up with the opponent's movements.

Of course, he still wasn't caught by Bai He. Bai He's hand only grabbed the afterimage left behind by Tang San.

"Teleportation?"

Bai He's shocked voice echoed. Tang San was already on the other side of the room, pink light flickering on his left arm.

(Author's note: In some places there was an error. Xiao Wu's spirit bone is in Tang San's left arm. I confirm it here. Everyone please excuse the error. Hereafter it's the left arm.)

Bai He stood in Tang San's previous location and looked at him,

"No wonder you're so confident, you had the guarantee of such an ability. I want to see how many times this teleportation of yours can work. Take care."

While speaking, Bai He suddenly radiated light, his spirit releasing.

Two yellow, three purple, three black. Eight spirit rings appeared simultaneously. The split second his spirit was released, Tang San's spiritual force fluctuated slightly, and he teleported a second time without the slightest hesitation. This time, he couldn't even see Bai He move. The next moment, Bai He's hand already flitted past where he stood before.

So fast. Tang San felt cold all over. Worthy of being a single attribute spirit cultivator, this speed could no longer be described as astonishing, it was simply universally shocking.

Without any hesitation, Tang San was already using teleportation once again. This time his body appeared at the doorway.

Bai He disappeared, in the whole room one could only see a faint mirage. He didn't use any spirit ability, only spirit amplified pure speed. Wherever Tang San appeared with teleportation, Bai He's hand would inevitably appear the next instant. Tang San was forced to constantly teleport to avoid Bai He's pursuit and attack. And after

each time he teleported, he only had a moment to pause. The Ghost Shadow Perplexing Track he previously used against Bai Chenxiang was unexpectedly completely useless.

This was Spirit Douluo level Speed Clan speed! Tang San constantly changed direction, making himself move irregularly as far as possible. Purple Demon Eye and his spiritual force were used to their limit, and even then he could only barely keep up with Bai He's silhouette.

Notes

1. Bai Chenxiang - (白沉香) "White Agarwood"

Credits

Author	—	(唐家三少) Tang Jia San Shao
Illustrator	—	(暮逢春) Mu Feng Chun
Publication platform	—	Shumilou.co
Publisher	—	<u>(长江出版社) Changjiang Press</u>
Translator	—	<u>Blue Silver Translation</u>
Book designer	—	<u>Armaell</u>